

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OF

Politics and General Literature.

VOL. III.]

MONDAY, MAY 27, 1822.

[No. CXXVI.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

—357—

Politics of Europe.

When our Paper was made up for the Press on Saturday Evening, we knew only of the hope-exciting Intelligence of Four Ships standing in below Saugor, attended by Two Pilot Vessels, names unknown. These Saturday's Reports have been more full of promise for the last three or four weeks, than all the other days put together; but whether this will end, as many former ones have done, by bringing us Ships from Rangoon instead of England, we know not. We shall at least hope that two out of the four at least are from London; and if their departure should have been so much later than the last from home as to furnish us with any important News, we shall issue an Extra to communicate it as usual. In the mean time, we proceed regularly with the subjects already in our hands.

South America.—The emancipation of South America is the most important event that has taken place since the Declaration of Independence by the United States in 1776. The vast increase of happiness which it must infallibly secure for the Americans themselves, and the noble and encouraging example which it holds out to every people struggling to deliver themselves from the usurped domination of tyrannical masters, must shake the fabric of despotism to the very foundations. The freedom of America, by increasing the mass of useful and disposable products, and by opening new channels for commerce, will give a new impulse to the industry of the most distant nations. She has herself the highest capabilities for improvement. She is blessed with a soil of astonishing fertility—with a mild and genial climate—with an inexhaustible store of the useful and the precious metals—with the finest harbours, and the noblest and largest rivers in the world. How rapid then must be her progress, when the multiplied restraints which have hitherto benumbed her intellectual energies, and fettered and cramped the industry and enterprise of her inhabitants, are put down! What a vast field is here opened for the profitable investment of European capital, and for the exertion of the genius, skill, and labour of the unemployed and superabundant population of this quarter of the globe! Emigration to South America cannot be excessive. Though she should double her population every twenty-five years for the next two centuries, she would still be underpeopled; and, if well governed, would still offer a rich harvest to activity and industry. This great event must be excessively annoying to the fraternity of Holy Leaguers. But the Atlantic has secured the Americans from their malice. They may put down liberty in Naples, and re-establish the Inquisition in Turin; but from Canada to Cape Horn they are, as they deserve to be, utterly without influence, detested, and despised!

Revenue Laws.—The Revenue Laws of England seem to be in a fair way of producing the same disastrous effects that have resulted from the revenue laws of Ireland. Such of our readers as may be disposed to doubt the accuracy of this statement will find it but too well established by a reference to the proceedings which have lately taken place in Kent and Sussex. For the last eight or ten months, scarcely a week has elapsed in which a pitched battle has not taken place between parties of smugglers and the sailors and soldiers employed in the preventive service. Latterly, however, this odious warfare has raged with unusual violence, and much blood has actually been spilt! The Kentish papers of last week inform us, that on Saturday fortnight above four hundred country people, mostly armed with guns

and pistols, assisting in the unloading of a smuggling lugger were attacked by a party of military, who after a brisk engagement, in which two of their party and eleven of the smugglers are said to have been killed, were obliged to retreat to the barracks! Such a disastrous, melancholy, and disgraceful occurrence will surely awaken the public attention to the state of the revenue laws. It shews distinctly the height to which smuggling has attained, and the necessity of taking the most effectual measures for its immediate suppression. If this is not done, the evil will undoubtedly increase; for the distress in which so many farmers and country labourers are now unfortunately involved must have rendered them much more disposed than formerly to embark in smuggling schemes. But, however we may deplore the prevalence of this illegal and ruinous traffic, it is abundantly certain, that Ministers will be disappointed if they attempt to put it down by the mere infliction of heavy punishments on those who are tempted to engage in it. High duties have made smuggling popular in Spain, and if persevered in, they will also make it popular in England. We have no desire to extenuate the guilt of those who endeavour to defraud the revenue, and to injure the fair trader; but it is idle to expect that the bulk of society will ever be brought to consider that those who furnish them with cheap gin, brandy, or tea, are guilty of any heinous offence! Every one sees that it is those who dig the pit, and not those who stumble into it, that are really responsible for all the mischief it may occasion. To create an overwhelming temptation to indulge in crime, and then to punish men for indulging in it, is a proceeding utterly and completely subversive of every principle of justice. It revolts the natural feelings of the people, and teaches them to feel an interest in the worst characters—for such smugglers generally are—to espouse their cause and to avenge their wrongs. That punishment which is not proportioned to the offence, and which does not carry the sanction of society along with it, can never be productive of any good effect. The true way to put down smuggling is to render it unprofitable,—to diminish the temptation to engage in it: and this is to be done, not by surrounding the coasts with cordons of troops, and making the country the theatre of sanguinary and ferocious contests, but simply by reducing the duties on the smuggled commodities. It is this, and this only, that will put an end to smuggling. Whenever the profits of the fair trader become nearly equal to those of the smuggler, the latter will be forced to abandon his hazardous profession. But so long as the high duties are kept up,—that is, so long as a *high bounty* is held out to encourage the adventurous, the needy, and the profligate to continue their career, an army of excise officers, backed by all the severity of the revenue laws, will be insufficient to hinder them.

Upper Canada.—The same distress in which the British farmers are involved seems to have extended to the farmers of Upper Canada, who are holding meetings, and voting resolutions, condemnatory of that clause in the late Corn Law which prevents the importation of Canadian wheat into this country, until the home price reaches 67s. a quarter. But while they are thus loud in their cry against the monopoly established in favour of the British farmers, they are themselves strenuously denouncing the impolicy of those regulations “which permit the importation of American produce into Lower Canada, without any duty being imposed on it!” Full liberty to export their produce to England would not satisfy these gentlemen; they must besides have a monopoly erected in their own favour, and be invested with the exclusive

command of the markets of their neighbours ! A modest demand, truly ; but quite in the taste of the practical statesmen of the Board of Trade.

But, as has been justly remarked by the Morning Chronicle, the really curious part of this business is the fact, now for the first time publicly and openly declared, that the Canadians cannot raise their produce so cheaply as the people of the United States ; for it is plain, that if they could have done this they could have had no possible inducement to ask for legislative protection against their competition. And yet we believe there is no doubt that the soil of Upper Canada is as fertile, and as well fitted for the production of corn as the soil of any part of the United States ; and, besides this, the major part of the colonists in Upper Canada have got gratis grants of their lands from Government ; and, instead of receiving any revenue from that colony, "the good easy purse-holders of England," actuated, we presume, by the laudable wish to have Canada in as good order as possible previously to its becoming independent, or a province of the American Republic, remit annually several hundred thousand pounds to defray the expense of its government ! Now, when such is the fact, how comes it that the colony should be full of discontent and dissatisfaction, and that the colonists are not even in a condition to withstand the competition of the Americans ? How comes it, we ask, that the latter should without any extrinsic assistance, without any remittances from another hemisphere, be able to undersell the Canadians in their own markets, and leave them far behind in the cultivation of every useful and elegant art, as well as in the accumulation of wealth and population ? The reason of this anomaly is not difficult to discover. The United States are well governed, and Canada is not. The answers giving by the principal resident proprietors in the different townships of Upper Canada to Mr. GOURLAY's queries, shew distinctly that the distresses of the province arise exclusively from the abuses which infect every department of the government. Of these the most prominent is the scandalous system of patronage and favouritism that has been acted upon in the distribution of the public lands. In almost every township large tracts have been granted to persons resident in this country, who never had the remotest intention of settling in the province, and who retain possession of the land in the expectation that the gradual increase of population will ultimately bring it into demand, and enable them to dispose of it for a comparatively high price. But the mere withholding of immense tracts of the finest land from colonization is but a small part of the grievance which this system has entailed on the province. The grand evil consists in the circumstance of the lands belonging to non-residents being especially exempted from all payments on account of STATUTE LABOUR,—that is from all payments on account of the formation of ROADS, BRIDGES, HARBOURS, or any of those undertakings so indispensable to the general prosperity of the colony ! And, in point of fact, innumerable instances have occurred in which the resident colonists have been obliged to construct bridges, and open communications through immense tracts belonging to some nobleman or rich merchant living in London, who did not contribute a single shilling to improvements which were equally advantageous to them as to those by whom they were executed ? This is a monstrous abuse. We may tax ourselves to pay the Canadians about double the price for their timber, for which we could purchase the preferable timber of the Baltic ; but no bounty of this kind will ever enable them to flourish under a system which really renders them mere instruments for enriching those with whom they have no connection. It is this odious system that has paralysed and fettered the industry of the colonists. It has spread discontent and poverty among those who would otherwise have been tranquil and affluent ; and if not put an end to, it will, we may confidently predict, ere long dissolve the existing connection with the mother country.—*Scotsman.*

Breakwater.—For the last week we have experienced nothing but a succession of tremendous storms from S. and S. W.; and although there is a large fleet of outward bound ships at anchor in the Sound and Catwater, still no damage whatever has been done to the shipping : this is another proof of the great utility of the Breakwater.—*Plymouth paper.*

Agricultural Dinner.—The agricultural dinner at the White Hart, Bath, was attended by more than usually numerous body of members and visitors. The Marquis of Lansdown fulfilled the duties of the chair with his accustomed urbanity and politeness. On giving the toast of "The Visitors who have honoured the meeting with their presence," the noble Marquis expressed a hope that he should not be considered as transgressing the excellent rule of the Society, which prohibited the introduction of politics, by proposing the addition "the Earl of Liverpool," a nobleman whose private worth secured him universal estimation. In expressing his acknowledgments for the honour thus conferred, the noble Earl took occasion to speak of the eminent importance of agriculture, and of the great benefits derived by the nation from the exertions of the Bath and West of England Society.

Agriculture.—A paragraph will be found in this day's JOURNAL, containing a short notice of a late dinner at the White Hart, Bath, where Lord Lansdown acted as chairman. Our readers may recollect, that at the recent meeting of Gentleman in the agricultural interest at Maidstone, Sir Edward Knatchbull, a Tory Member of Parliament assured his audience that the Marquis of Londonderry was disposed to assist them in obtaining some measures of relief. Now the Bath dinner was a dinner of agriculturists—at which the Earl of Liverpool attended, though but in quality of a visitor ; and when his Lordship's health was given, with a compliment (and well merited) to his private worth, the noble Earl, being his own spokesman, launched out in praise of the West of England Agricultural Society, and expatiated on the "pre-eminent importance of agriculture." Now, whatever bright prospects may have dazzled the eyes of the country gentlemen, when they were thus flattered with assurances of support from one Minister, and of admiration from another, we can hardly refrain from considering both as in the highest degree ominous to the public good. Will the Ministers agree to adopt and execute a scheme of retrenchment such as the ruinous state of the finances of this country require ? Will they, in addition, agree to take off some six or seven millions of those taxes which press most severely upon the farmers and labourers throughout Great Britain ? If they do neither of these things, they administer to agriculture, or to the landlords, no particle nor shadow of relief. But as, when men offer a public pledge of any kind, it is to be supposed that they must have in contemplation the fulfilment of it either in reality, or in appearance, it may be useful to speculate for a moment on the only alternative which seems to present itself, if Ministers should, as it is believed they will, do their utmost to put down all further attempts at a reduction of the taxes, and at economy in the national expenditure. "They have promised," say country gentlemen, "to relieve our distresses." "Ay," reply the men in office, "so we will." "Then of course," the landholder rejoins, "you will reduce your expenses." No. that "is impossible." "And will you not take off the malt-tax, and the soap-tax, and the leather-tax, and the salt-tax?" "Heaven forbid!" cries the Chancellor of the Exchequer. "But if you (the landlords) will help us to keep down the Jacobin call for reduced taxation and more strict economy, we will do you a piece of service in return. My noble friend, Lord Londonderry, will keep his promise. You shall have a new corn bill!" Once more, then, the country gentlemen (in part at least) are about to be ensnared by their own narrow and mercenary views, and another part gulled by mere inveterate want of foresight, and by blind confidence in the very politicians who have already so often deceived, and so nearly ruined them. A new corn-bill ! a new farce!—for what can any tax on foreign corn—what can any fresh prohibition of imported corn do for those who at this moment complain of being beggared, though in the enjoyment of all that the most rigorous prohibition could effect for them—a complete monopoly of the home market during a period of full three years past ; and a certain prolongation of that monopoly until the prices of British corn shall have reached nearly double their present standard ? A corn bill, or a new tax—(call the tax, if you will, 10*l.* per quarter)—can only give the British farmer that which he already has ; that, having which, he already complains

Monday. May 27, 1822.

—359—

of being ruined. But if the country gentlemen suffer themselves to be so deluded, the country generally will not be so diverted from its purpose: the tenants of these country gentlemen will not, because they cannot, lend themselves to this illusory scheme. When they find that the proposed tax on foreign corn does not enable them to raise corn at home and to get for it such a price as will enable them to feed their families after paying rent and taxes, they, too, will see that the true relief is to be nowhere found but in an extensive reduction of taxes, and in a still further reduction of rents: this reduction of rents must happen; no half-measures can long avert it—the landlords cannot, with all their complaisance to the Treasury, stave off that evil day; and when it does come, and when they feel it severely pinch them, they, like other sufferers, will begin to claim a *bona fide* fulfilment of ministerial promises, and a sincere and effectual execution of those measures by which only this empire can be saved.

Beacon Bond.—The proceedings in the case of the subscribers to the BEACON BOND are before the public. The most remarkable clause in the abstract of the bond, is one in which the subscribers agree to EXEMPT THEMSELVES from all responsibility. “It being expressly understood (they say) that we have no concern in the property of the said news paper, nor any other responsibility regarding it, nor control over it, except that we become bound in manner above and after mentioned;” that is, to subscribe 100*l* each, if necessary, for the support of the said libellous paper. It would be very happy for some men if they could thus exempt themselves from the legal responsibility of their own actions, by a previous resolution, secretly signed, that they would not be responsible. One man, for example, might throw 1,000*l*. into a commercial house, to divide as a partner, with a secret resolution that he was not responsible if the house failed. Another might supply a man with a dagger to murder an individual, with a secret resolution that he would not be an accomplice if the murderer were detected. Unfortunately, the law and common sense hold a different opinion upon the subjects.—*Times, Dec. 26.*

Sir Benjamin Bloomfield.—It is confidently reported in the upper circles, that Sir Benjamin Bloomfield is out of favour: some go so far as to say, that in a few days he will be no longer in office.—*Traveller.*

Gas Lamps.—On Sunday night, soon after 12 o'clock, the gas lamps in St. James's-park and Constitution-hill, amounting to upwards of 500 (said to be 625), were lighted for the first time, by way of experiment. The operation was performed by 30 lamplighters, who accomplished the task in less than five minutes. They continued burning only for about half an hour. The works being found to be complete, they were again lighted on the following evening, as they will be every evening in future. On Monday morning the old lamps were removed, and in the course of the day the posts being dug up, by the evening scarcely a vestige remained.

Madrid, Dec. 10.—You will doubtless have been informed ere this reaches you, that Mina, has yielded obedience to the orders of Government, and that affairs have been satisfactorily settled in Galicia: thank to the firmness and good conduct of the Political Chief. You will read in the UNIVERSAL the excellent report to the Cortes, and the discussions in that Assembly respecting the recent troubles at Cadiz and Seville: nothing can be more satisfactory and constitutional than the principles which they recognize and enforce. The general result of the elections of the members of the new Cortes has now been ascertained, and is very constitutional: the only province from which the returns are yet incomplete is Catalonia, where there is no doubt of their being excellent. To the general surprise, the returns from Seville (notwithstanding the late proceedings) have proved good: but those from Cadiz are, as might at this time be expected, not so satisfactory.

In spite of the anxiety and agitation which the political state of Spain might be supposed to produce at Madrid, an establishment is formed there on the basis of the Atheneum of Paris, and is frequented by a great number of persons who culti-

vate letters and sciences. The Spanish Atheneum has just acquired the magnificent cabinet of the physician Robertson, who is now living at Madrid.

The ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG of Dec. 13, contains the following article, dated Vienna, Dec. 10;—The Russian and Turkish outposts on the Pruth have had some skirmishes, but which have not led to any thing serious. The troops of the two nations merely observe each other.

A Bordeaux paper mentions the intended establishment of a lazaretto at Pauillac, to preserve the inhabitants of that department from the attacks of the yellow fever.

The Correctional Tribunal of Marseilles, on the 11th of December, tried Capt. Quoniam, accused by the public prosecutor of having trafficked in negroes. He was condemned to the confiscation of his ship and cargo, and to the forfeiture of his occupation.

Dr. Kees, Counsellor of the Supreme Tribunal of Leipsic; who died there lately, was the richest individual in that city. His property is valued at three millions Saxon crowns.

The Zodiac of Denderah left Marseilles for Paris on the 13th instant. It was placed on a chariot with four wheels, constructed expressly for the purpose.

Persians.—“The Austrian Papers,” observes a late English Journal, “have reduced to a very slight point of importance the invasion of Curdsitan by the Persians. This province is only nominally dependent on the Porte, and its inhabitants, who lead a lawless life, frequently penetrate into the Persian territory, for purposes of plunder. It is to punish these predatory practices, and not from hostile views towards the Porte, that the Persians are said to have entered that province. They made a similar incursion more than once in the course of last year; and have for several years done the same.”

St. Petersburg.—Extract of a Letter from St. Petersburg, dated Nov. 26:—

Our political relations are still covered with an impenetrable veil. What our Court and its Diplomatists shall determine in relation to the Ottoman Porte, is as yet a riddle. The generality of the people expect, under the present circumstances, that war is unavoidable. Our armies have been now six months on the Pruth, where respect is still shown to the confines of the neighbouring State, but they want only the first signal, in order to commence the infliction of a terrible avengement of the oppressed Greeks, their unfortunate fellow believers. But the Emperor ALEXANDER looks forward with anxiety to the horrible butchery, which awaits the miserable Greeks in every place where Islamism can give loose to its fury; and from his noble principles, and from his humane disposition, he wishes to avert the chance of such massacres, before he declares his final resolution. Our Ambassador at the Turkish Court, Baron STROGOV, is still among us. His patient and heroic conduct in the days of horror, when dangers so fearfully impended over him and his suite, has gained for him not only the good will of his Sovereign, but also the sincerest esteem of all his fellow countrymen.

The weather was lately the most disagreeable in the world; violent storms from the south-west, followed by alternate showers of snow and of rain, visited us daily. A thick moist air surrounded us, and our horizon was obscured by a dark gloom. Since the 11th, a clear winter weather set in; the cold varying from 4 to 8 degrees. On the 13th, the Rewa was covered with the first ice, on which account the great bridge (Isaac's) was removed immediately, and the passage over it prevented, and for some days all correspondence between the inhabitants of Wassili Ostrow and the city has been suspended.

Two days ago, several failures took place here, and among others the long established and much respected Greek house POLIZO, well known for its extensive dealings in Turkish shawls. The importation of foreign produce of various descriptions was in the course of the summer so great, that room was wanted at the Custom-house, and a large space at a little distance was therefore obliged to be prepared for the reception of the goods which required examination.—*Morning Chronicle, Dec. 26.*

To England.

Prond Queen of the Ocean! the land of the Free!
Once hope of the nations!—What trance is on thee?
Why so still and so voiceless upon thy blue wave,
While the Greek bleeds again o'er his forefather's grave?

Remember the land of the patriot and sage,
The lone light of mind in a barbarous age—
The ark of bright Freedom that saved her for man,
When Slavery's deluge the earth overran.

The parent of heroes—the bravest and best
That e'er smote the plumage from Tyranny's crest,
And left the examples which make us believe
What miracles Virtue can dare and achieve.

The parent of all that to mind can belong—
The Orator's power—the enchantment of song—
The treasures of Science—Philosophy's plan—
And History teaching the grandeur of man.

Such, Greece, were thy glories, when grand and alone
Thou sat'st in thy beauty on Liberty's throne;
And thy brows were adorn'd with the chaplets most rare,
Of the beautiful arts which bloom'd lovingly there.

And these do we owe thee;—and now that thy name
Again soars to glory o'er ages of shame,
Shall we leave thee unaided to fight on that shore
Which Freedom has written with names we adore?

Oh, rise! and avert from our age the foul stain,
That Greece fought for Freedom, and fought on in vain!
While the nation that boasts of the Christians' best fame
Saw her temples consum'd in the Mussulman's flame!

Oh! let not this tale be through time handed down
In letters of shame, and with History's frown,
That Britain look'd coldly on Freedom's dread loss,
While her soldiers were Greeks, and her banner—the Cross!

Principles of Government.

Sir, To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

The Government of IRELAND has always been to me a matter of admiration and puzzle. All the works written on Government had failed to enlighten me on the subject, and I expected to live and die in Ignorance of the source of those sound, excellent, and Statesman-like principles which have so long directed the rule, and promoted the prosperity of that portion of his Majesty's dominions. Finding no light to guide my steps, I had come to the conclusion, that this Government was without a type, and was the pure, unmixed, and unassisted invention of some master-mind; but a little work that has recently fallen into my hands, confirms the assertion that "there is nothing new under the sun;" but though the following extract takes away mainly from the originality of the conception, I am free to say, and justice compels me to admit, that there is infinite merit in putting such a system into execution:—

Il ne faut d'autre vertu que la patience, et la soumission, dans l'individu gouverné; et quelle nécessité y a-t-il donc de l'instruire? Le panvre n'est créé que pour être utile au riche; que pour être employé à ses besoins — à ses fantaisies; pour servir de fascines dans les sièges, comme fit Mahomet à Constantinople. Quelle est la cause du peu de rapport des grandes possessions? C'est la richesse du peuple. Il ne s'engraisse jamais qu'aux dépens de l'homme à son aise; ne craigne donc point de tâter à votre tour cette subsistance qu'il vous a prise. Les plus grands malheurs résulteront toujours du renversement de ces principes. Il cessera d'y avoir une autorité réelle dans tout Gouvernement où chacun se croira fait pour le partager; ou, l'unique moyen d'éviter ces dangers, est de resserrer la chaîne le plus qu'il est possible, de promulguer les loix les plus sévères, de refuser absolument l'instruction du peuple, de s'opposer surtout à cette fatale liberté de la presse, foyer de toutes les lumières qui viennent dissoudre les liens du peuple; et de l'effrayer ensuite par des supplices aussi graves que multipliés. Rien n'est aussi dangereux que la liberté du peuple. Est il un pays dans le monde où les grands soient plus heureux qu'en Turquie? Oh! vivent, vivent à jamais de tels Gouvernements!"—Amst. 1797.

It is barely possible that better rules and principles of Government might be invented; but what wise man would abandon the certainties of practice to fly to the uncertainties of theory? THE QUARTERLY REVIEW protests awfully against the impositions of such State novelties and foretells their "decay." According to that work (and Ireland may rejoice in its ancient privileges), Laws, Constitutions, and forms of Government ought to "grow and remain under the guidance of the same spirit which gave them birth."

DRACO.

*No. 50, England and France.

Verses.

Copied from the Window of an obscure Lodging-house in the neighbourhood of London.

Anonymous—From the Annual Register, for 1774.

Stranger! whoe'er thou art, whose restless mind,
Like me within these walls is cribb'd, confined;
Learn how each want that heaves our mutual sigh
A woman's soft solicitudes supply.
From her white breast retreat all rude alarms;
Or fly the magic circle of her arms;
While souls exchanged alternate grace acquire,
And passions catch from passions glorious fire:
What though to deck this roof no arts combine
Such forms as rival every fair but mine;
No nodding plumes, our humble couch above,
Proclaim each triumph of unbounded love;
No silver lamp with sculptured Cupids gay,
O'er yielding beauty pours its mid-night ray;
Yet Fanny's charms could Time's slow flight beguile,
Soothe every care, and make each dungeon smile:
In her, what kings, what saints have wish'd, is given,
Her heart is empire, and her love is heaven.

EPIGRAM.—FROM THE FRENCH.

"Tis in vain," cried the Judge, as the Usher he chid,
"We cannot proceed, with this noise in the Hall—
Ten causes already the Court have decided,
Without having heard any one of them all!"

Wandering Jew.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

SIR,

Having observed in your Journal some time since, an article upon that mysterious creature, the Wandering Jew, and being in possession of a short history of him, differing in many particulars from the one you have inserted, I beg to present it to your attention, using your own discretion in the publication of it.—Yours, &c. A. READER.

In the year 1666, there came to England a man who pretended to be the Wandering Jew. The Duchess of Mazarine, who was then in London, wrote the following account of him to her sister, the Duchess of Bouillon, at Paris:—

"He says he was an officer of the Shanhedrim at the time that Pilate condemned Christ, and remembers every particular relating to the Apostles: that he struck our Saviour at the time of his coming out of the judgment-hall, and was therefore condemned to live till his second coming; that he had travelled into every corner of the world, and pretends to cure diseases by a touch.—He speaks several languages, and gives such a just account of past ages, that people do not know what to think of him. The two Universities sent several doctors to examine him, who, with all their skill, were not able to discover the least contradiction in his discourse. One very learned man spoke to him in Arabic, and he answered in the same tongue, telling him that there was scarcely a single history in the world that was true.—The same Gentleman asked him what he thought of Mahomet? He answered, 'that he knew him very well; that he was a man of good understanding, but subject to mistakes as well as other men, particularly in denying that Jesus Christ was crucified; for I saw him,' says he, 'nailed to the cross with my own eyes. I was likewise present at the burning of Rome by Nero. He said likewise, that he saw Saladin returning from his conquests in the Levant, and told several particulars relating to Soliman the Magnificent. He affirmed also, that he had seen Tamerlane and Bajazet, and gave an ample relation of the wars in the Holy Land. The common people give out that he works miracles, but the wiser sort look upon him as an impostor."

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.—At the recent West Kent Agricultural Meeting, held at Maidstone, Mr. Alinnt stated "that the distresses in that part of the country from whence he came (Penshurst) exceeded all belief. In the six neighbouring parishes adjoining to his, there was not one farmer in ten solvent, one third of the population was out of employ, and one-third of the land was now vacant, or only kept on by the kindness of the landlords. Ruin was quite apparent in the western corner of the county: and if the Marquis of Londonderry, when he came into Kent to spend his Christmas holidays, would only give him three day's notice he would be bound to get together 3000 workmen out of employ."

It appears from the population return, that there is now living in the parish of Cloncurry and Barony of Eastern Ophaley, in the country of Kildare, a man named THADY DOONEY, at the advanced age of 128 years!

MISCELLANEOUS.

—361—

Sir Robert Wilson.

From the Durham Chronicle, Dec. 22, 1821.

It is rather singular that in searching for precedents, one exactly in point has (so far as we know) been hitherto overlooked by the writers who have discussed this matter. We allude to the case of the Duke of Bolton and Lord Cobham, who were dismissed in 1733 from the army by virtue of the exercise of the prerogative, without trial by a court-martial, and without knowing the supposed crimes or accusers. In consequence of this stretch of power, a bill was brought into Parliament, entitled "An act for the better securing the Constitution, by preventing the officers of such land forces as shall at any time be allowed by authority of Parliament, from being deprived of their commissions, otherwise than by judgment of a court-martial, to be held for that purpose, or by address of either House of Parliament." The bill was rejected, but the opinion of a great number of Peers on the necessity and importance of such an enactment was put upon the record in the shape of a protest. As that document embraces the soundest constitutional principles, and the ablest reasoning, we extract it entire:—

Dissident,

1. Because the exigence of affairs in times past, or complaisance of former Parliaments, have, for several years, occasioned the keeping up a considerable body of land forces in this kingdom: and as various events may happen, to oblige future Parliaments to pursue the same measures, which nothing but the utmost necessity can justify, they being repugnant to the nature of our constitution, and dangerous to the liberties of a free people; and as the whole disposition of the said forces is absolutely in the crown: we cannot but think it highly reasonable, when so great an increase of power and influence, which was formerly occasional and rare, comes to be annually vested, and constantly exercised by the crown, that some such limitations as proposed by this bill are not only proper but necessary. And we are confirmed in that opinion, by the doctrine so often and so strongly laid down in this house, that the greatest danger to this nation from a standing military force must arise from the abuse of the power which now subsists, of cashiering officers without any crime proved or alleged, and of garbling the army at pleasure. And we heartily wish that nothing had since happened to put us in mind of that doctrine.

2. Because the employing or removing of all the general officers would have been left in the crown, if this bill had been passed into law: for the enacting clauses were only to this purpose.—That no colonel, or other officer of inferior degree, having his commission from the crown, shall be cashiered or removed (other than to a higher post), or discharged from his commission, or be deprived of the pay belonging to the same in any other manner than by a court-martial, to be appointed by a commission under his Majesty's sign manual to any officer not under the degree of a field officer; at the same time there is no provision in the bill that nothing shall extend to prevent his Majesty, or his successors, from disbanding, breaking, or reducing all, or any of the regiments, troops, or companies now in being, or which shall or may be raised hereafter. And it is further provided, that his Majesty and his successors may remove any officer, upon an address of either House of Parliament. We conceive therefore, that as these posts would still have remained, upon all vacancies, in the sole disposal of his Majesty, and that the persons now possessing them are liable to be removed for any breach or neglect of duty, by a court martial, or by address of either House of Parliament, the prerogative of the Crown would be no otherways abridged or altered than it has been on many other occasions, particularly in that instance, of making the judges to hold their places *quædam se bene gesserint*, which were formerly during pleasure only; which alteration has been always approved, and we hope will, in no time to come, ever be attempted to be repealed.

3. Because the practice of all the nations in Europe, even where the Government is most arbitrary, justifies the intention of this bill, for no instances can be produced in any other kingdom or state (as we believe) where officers are cashiered or deprived of their commissions, otherwise than by the judgement of a court-martial; how much stronger reasons then have we of this nation to establish such a rule, since our officers are many of them in a capacity of having a share in the Legislature, where it is absolutely necessary, for the preservation of the Constitution, that every member should be free and independent; and more particularly at this time, when we find the number of officers having seats in Parliament far greater than ever it was, even in time of war, when above three times the number of the present troops were kept on foot:

4. Although it was objected in the debate, that, in time of danger, upon suspicion of traitorous practices, it might be necessary to remove an officer from his post, though the informations might not be ready to be produced, or proper to be laid before a court-martial; and yet by officers continuing in their posts, great mischiefs might accrue to his Majesty and the public: we apprehend, that objection received a full answer, that, in such a case, an officer might be immediately put under arrest, or sent to some other post, where he could not be so dangerous; and we conceive such a method of proceeding will always be thought

most proper, when the crime is only suspected, but not capable of legal proof; for it must be allowed as unjust to condemn a man upon suspicion only, as it would be unreasonable to let a man continue in power who is justly under suspicion. That part of the prerogative which will always be esteemed the brightest jewel of the crown—the power of conferring grace and favour—would have remained entire, had this bill passed into a law; only the disagreeable part of inflicting punishments was designed to be limited, or rather secured, by this bill, from being turned to an ill use by the private whispers of some malicious or vindictive minister who may at any time hereafter, unhappily get possession of the royal ear.

5. Because, the time for the new elections drawing near, we look upon this as the most favourable opportunity of passing so necessary a bill, since hereafter the very great increase, which may probably happen, of the number of officers in Parliament, may render the future passing of such bill totally impracticable; for while the officers of the army remain in their present precarious situation, they may be intimidated by the threats of an unforgiving minister, from voting even for a bill of this nature, and choose to purchase present security at the price of their own interest, and their future independence in Parliament, in which the liberty of their country is so much concerned.

6. Because we conceive the small degree of independence proposed to be given to the officers of the army by this bill, to be necessary to prevent their being exposed to temptations, in which (though we are ready to do justice to the sentiments of honour and virtue in these gentlemen) we should rather lament than wonder to find a discouraged and indigent virtue yield to a criminal but prosperous compliance; especially should we have the misfortune to see an imperious, all grasping, power-engrossing minister, who may make their political submission to his oppressive and destructive schemes, the only test of their merit, and the only tenor of their commissions.

(Thirty-three signatures follow.)

It was afterwards moved to address the Crown for the purpose of knowing who advised the removal of the Duke of Bolton and Lord Cobham, which motion was also rejected, and another protest was signed by the same peers who signed the former, excepting those two noblemen themselves, who signed a different one, both which we subjoin:—

Dissident,

1. Because we conceive it is the inherent right of this house to address the Crown, to be informed, who are the advisers of any measures that they may be prejudicial to his Majesty's Government, or dangerous to the liberties of the nation.

2. Because the removal of two officers of such rank and dignity, and of such known fidelity to his Majesty's person and Government, without any cause assigned, or any known or alleged neglect of their duty, gave the greatest alarm to many of his Majesty's most faithful subjects; we therefore thought fit for his Majesty's service, to give him this occasion to publish to the world the just grounds of his displeasure, or to detest the calumny of the accusers; and consequently to withdraw his confidence from such pernicious counsellors.

3. Because, that as the practice of displacing officers has grown more frequent in proportion to the increase of their numbers in both Houses of Parliament, the world may entertain (however unjustly) an opinion, that the free use of their votes has been the real cause of their disgrace; and the more so, since most of the persons who have been removed have happened to be members of one or other Houses of Parliament.

4. Because, applications of this nature to the Crown may hereafter protect many of his Majesty's faithful subjects from the secret malicious representations of some minister in future time, who (though unrestrained by any sense, of truth, regardless of his Prince's real interest, and animated only by his own passions) may however be checked by the just apprehensions that the applications of Parliament may lay open his calumnies, and bring upon himself the disgrace he had prepared for others.

Dissident,

Because we were not conscious that any neglect or breach of our duty can be laid to our charge, much less any want of zeal and attachment for his Majesty's person and Government; we therefore must testify our earnest desire, that this motion had passed in the affirmative, that we might have had an opportunity given us of knowing our supposed crimes and accusers; and we hope, of justifying ourselves to his Majesty and the world.

BOLTON.

COBHAM.

It is evident, from the documents, that many among our most illustrious ancestors considered that the prerogative exercised by the Crown in the case cited, which case is precisely similar to that of Sir Robert Wilson, was, if not illegal, dangerous to the liberties of the people. They saw that such a power, if allowed, was pregnant with evil; and they adopted those means which were best calculated to effect a remedy. Unfortunately they failed in their constitutional endeavours, and their posterity have reason to lament, after the lapse of nearly a hundred years, that the wise precaution proposed by them was proposed in vain.

Sir Robert Wilson.

Of the merits of Sir R. Wilson no one can profess ignorance. Here is a man who has been in the service of his Country upwards of twenty years, earning reputation in every quarter of the globe, and receiving honours from almost every Sovereign but his own, from whom he has derived only the profitless distinction of an acknowledgment of his service and merit, the very rank he held in the army being purchased by the sacrifice of his private fortune. Surely this was a tenure which should not have been responsible to ordinary risks and prejudices,—a tenure which crime alone ought to have cancelled. Yet we have seen the name of this brave officer struck out of the Army List, as if it were a disgrace to the honourable profession with which it has been so long and so gallantly associated—no court martial, no court of inquiry, no sort of investigation has been permitted to satisfy public opinion that the judgment was founded on justice; but a gallant officer, without any of the ordinary judicial forms, is suddenly dismissed, in a manner calculated, if his character, had not been previously beyond the reach of ordinary malice, to ruin him in the public estimation, and to deprive him not only of the fruits of his long services, but of that property to which he had as good a claim as any proprietor to a purchased estate. We do sincerely beg those of our fellow-citizens who can appreciate the blessings of a Constitution, whose best foundation is the security of private property, to mark their sense of its departure from its spirit, by contributing, in unison with almost every principal city in the empire, to place this victim of ministerial vengeance beyond the reach of his pitiful oppressors.

We do not recollect to have seen the case of General Conway referred to in any of the late discussions; he was dismissed in 1764. See Adolphus, i. 154. On this dismissal we quote the following opinion of Lord Orford; see his Works, ii. p. 576.

"The late dismissal is prejudicial to the Army, to the General, and to the Public, for these reasons:—

"I. It most slackens the zeal of officers, when they see that, after a life spent in the service, they are liable to be turned adrift, to satisfy the vengeance of Ministers, and for causes no way connected with the profession. It affects the honour of officers, who are by this Author declared the Tools of Minister; it makes their fortune precarious and desperate, if they obey their conscience; and inclines men without doors to question the honour of those who vote with the Court, as a rod is held over their heads, and it is known that they act under fear of losing their employments. It indisposes their countrymen to choose them into Parliament, as an officer can no longer be supposed a free agent.

"2. The General is hurt in his fortune; he is deprived of the rewards of long and painful services? and he is treated with the same disgrace as men are treated in all countries who have proved themselves unworthy of their profession.

"3. The Public is hurt, if the rights of Parliament are violated, and if punishment, which is only due to crimes, is inflicted on incorruptible honesty and conscientious virtue. It is hurt, if Ministers revenge their own animosities on the servants of the King and Nation, and if they in effect declare, that to defend the Liberties of the People subjects the Guardians of those Liberties to proscription.—*Bristol Mercury.*

LORD BYRON.—This Member of the corps of Royal and Noble Authors has recently written his "own life," which he has presented, as a mark of his friendship and esteem, to the first lyric poet of the age. Mr. Murray has purchased the manuscript for two thousand guineas.—*Morning Paper.*

His Majesty's state coach is at this time receiving several additional ornaments, amongst which the collars, stars, &c. of the different orders of Knighthood bordering the panels of the carriage are said to be truly superb.

AGRICULTURAL PUN.—A farmer in the neighbourhood of Doncaster was lately met by his landlord, who accosted him thus:—"John, I intend to raise your rent;" to which John replied,—"Sir, I am very much obliged to you, for I cannot raise it myself."

The reprehensible practice of imposing upon tradesmen, by sending them worthless packages, and taxing them with the carriage, was last week resorted to by a young man, an assistant in a draper's shop in Cross Parish, to whom it may be proper to intimate that this kind of wit subjects the willing to a prosecution for fraud.—*Leeds Mercury.*

The following circumstance must convince every unprejudiced mind how easy it is to imitate the Bank of England Notes, and what temptations it holds out to men of real genius, when in distress:—A few days since, a person, whilst enjoying the company of a party of friends, where the case of the unfortunate Cadman was the subject of conversation, made a wager that he would, in the presence of one of the company, make a note and pass it in two hours. This was actually done. The note was again procured, and at the request of his friends immediately burnt.—*Buckinghamshire Chronicle.*

The New French Ministry.

(From the *Constitutionnel*.)

A new Ministry is called to the helm, of the state, and its first acts are expected with impatience, in order to form a just idea of its political system. Some private interests, some ambitious individuals, are on the watch, because so great an alteration in the head of the administration is felt in the extremes; but to the mass, what has hitherto occurred appears only a change of place. What the public may gain in the increase of liberty, or the diminution of sacrifices, can alone be felt as a change of things. France only aspires to the enjoyment of the delights of her climate, the riches of her soil and the resources of her industry, under the influence of institutions which protect, but which allow freedom of action, for it ought to be constantly repeated, that this country, which has been so cruelly torn by factions all the elements of peace and prosperity. There is no agitation beyond that salutary movement, which maintains vigour and prolongs life. Men of moderate talents, possessing merely good intentions may easily render France happy and powerful. There exists no country which it would be more difficult to govern.

In England, on the appointment of a new Ministry, the changes are confined to the great places and sinecures which pass from hand to hand. As in that country there is scarcely such a thing as a salaried magistracy, and as every thing goes on by itself or through private interest, the convulsion is not felt beyond the Government offices. With us, on the contrary, where the administration is extremely complicated, the removal of a Ministry shakes, or at least alarms, all the individuals employed in the different stages of the administrative scale. The change of Minister of Finance is felt in the Lottery Offices; and that of a Minister of the Interior by the lowest Sub-Prefect in the kingdom.

This is a serious inconvenience, but it is the consequence of a system of administration which was formed by an absolute Government. This system does not accord with the representative Government, which the author of the charter has given us. It checks its development, and impedes the movement of the machinery; but by the force of things it will gradually disappear, and give place to a system in harmony with the fundamental law of the state, and which will have the double advantage of being more constitutional and less expensive.

The municipal law, provided it is not to be a privilege bestowed on a few proprietors, to the general injury of the public, will be looked forward to with impatience. But what is most ardently desired is a frank revision of all those decrees, orders, laws, and ordinances, which so completely clash with each other, that every one may find himself right and wrong at the same time: and what above all is desired, is a positive and complete independence of juries and tribunals—an independence without which there can be no civil and political liberty; no security, no repose.

It will be worthy of a new Ministry not to shrink from a law for fixing the responsibility of Ministers. The charter has promised it, and society demands it. There may be serious abuses in liberty; but that abuses are also possible in power, no one will doubt.

Before prescribing punishments for the faults of others, it would perhaps be becoming in ministerial authority to offer securities against its own. A vast career of glory is open for those who may have the good sense to recognize and to judge what France wants and wishes. This is a fertile field which still produces, though it has not been sown. What would it not yield to those who know how to cultivate it?

The late Ministry have resigned, and certain journals already applaud their fall, while they salute the rising power. Our silence, when it was necessary for us to be silent; our hints, when permitted to speak, have sufficiently explained the manner in which we viewed the last administration. We wished to attack it when we could not, and now we will not. A disgrace, however striking it may be, is always entitled to a certain respect. Those who know the world, perceive compensations in the loss of power. The errors of the man who falls ought only to be pointed out as warnings to him who is rising.

To those journalists we leave the task of burning by anticipation incense on the altar of an authority which is only yet known by the names of the persons that exercise it. Before we speak of it, we shall wait for its acts. If they appear calculated to recall confidence, to soften animosities, to conciliate interests, we shall pay them an honest respect; if they appear to us to this noble object, we shall criticise them frankly, and shall not be afraid of being called flatterers; if we praise with good faith; or detractors, if we censure with justice.

Our most ardent wishes are to see liberty secured to all; and not merely to some classes. Parties often invoke liberty, only to obtain power; and regard the triumph of their system, only as a means of subjugating their opponents. We claim liberty for all Frenchmen, whatever be their opinions; we ask it, above all, for our enemies, because there is no glory in conquering adversaries, except when they combat with equal arms.

Monday, May 27, 1822.

—363—

Such is the profession of faith of men who love their country, independent of the favors it may bestow, or the sacrifices it may impose.

(From the *Courier Francais*.)

The new Ministry is the subject of all conversations. Every one is lost in conjecture on the course it is about to adopt; and the desire of knowing the future gives great occupation to the present. Some say that the rewards which the Crown has granted in the *Moniteur* to the Ministers who have quitted their stations, are proofs that their system is still to be followed. Others affirm, that by withdrawing the law on the Censorship, the Government seems pledged to an opposite, or at least a different course. Finally, there are Sibylles who pretend to prophesy that the law on the Police of the Journals, which is to be presented by the present Keeper of the Seals, will be in all respects (the title excepted) perfectly equivalent to the law of the Censorship, which was brought forward by his predecessor.

Which of these conjectures ought to be adopted? What, at the present moment, is to be expected? That is what the friends of liberty and their country need trouble themselves little about, for the future is in the power of no one; for the minority of the Chamber can neither mend it nor make it worse; for the evil or the good which is to follow will be the work of the majority, which by adopting or rejecting the measures to be proposed, can alone influence our future position, and determine the fortunate or unfortunate events to which the new Ministry may give birth by the system they mean to follow.

One thing only appears determined by the new appointments. It is now known to what class of opinions the Ministers belong, and their nomination renders the position of the Chambers and of France more distinct, the route to be followed more easy, and the opposition more direct. Thus, as we predicted on the appearance of the law of the 29th of June, the two opinions are in presence. Adieu to floating votes, to opinions without opinion, principles without principle. The centre, which often served as an intermediary between the Ministry and the two sides of the Chamber—which sometimes was a rampart for the weaker against the attacks of the stronger, and sometimes the auxiliary of the stronger in crushing the weaker—this centre seems to be dissolved in the sitting of Saturday. The deputy was observed to place himself between the two opinions. Every one had chosen his party. "Twas, who for Caesar? Who for Pompey? Is this a good or an evil? I do not take upon myself to decide, though my opinion on the subject is formed; but the fact is as I have stated it. Thus has the electoral system of the 29th June brought forth its fruit. It no longer leaves for Ministers the possibility of that intermediate and ministerial opinion which during four years, had existed under the influence of the law of the 5th of February.

The *Quotidienne* still murmurs, and I sincerely pity that paper. The *Drapeau* is more happy. He announces to the universe that the day is not far distant when he will be ministerial. It is easy to foresee that the ministers who are supported by the *Drapeau* must be proof against all attacks. That journal offers, indeed, its services in a manner altogether disinterested; but is not receiving them even gratis, paying for them more then they are worth?

MANNA.—Mr. Burckhardt, in his Travels, states that "the Bedouins collect to this day (1816) the manna, under the very same circumstances described in the books of Moses." (This was in the Peninsula of Mount Sinai.) "Whenever the rains have been plentiful during the winter, it drops abundantly from the tamarisk (in Arabic, tarfa)—a tree very common in the Syrian and Arabian deserts, but producing, as far as I know, no manna anywhere else. They gather it before sun rise, because if left in the sun it melts: its taste is very sweet, much resembling honey: they use it, as we do sugar, principally in their dishes composed of flour. When purified over the fire, it keeps for many months."

THE JEWS.—There is an account in Exodus, relating the conduct of the Jews in despoiling the Egyptians of their jewels, when they passed out of that country, which has frequently been mentioned in the way of reproach to that much-abused race. We observe in a pamphlet published by Mr. Bellamy, (who is making a new translation of the Bible) that the passage containing this account is a gross mistranslation; and that the Hebrews were ordered to borrow, not jewels, but gold and silver; and this too of their own people, not of the Egyptians, to assist their poor on the journey. And the word *nitsattem* (Mr. Bellamy says,) which is in the common version rendered—"and ye shall spoil the Egyptians," truly reads, "ye shall be delivered from Egypt."—He notices a number of other errors in the translation of the Bible now in use, equally hostile to the true meaning of the writers.—It is not a little curious, that many of these mistranslated passages, which give meanings in direct opposition to the real ones, have been as stoutly defended by eminent theologians as any in the whole book; and long commentaries indeed have been written upon them, expressly to show their extreme beauty and propriety!—Mr. Bellamy has been freely assaulted by the Clericals of the Quarterly for troubling himself with these errors. These sort of people always prefer "things as they are," however faulty, for reasons which are now pretty well known.

Mr. Haydon's Pictures.

The private view of these Pictures took place yesterday, and, of course, was excessively public. The crowd and hurry prevented us necessarily from examining very minutely these noble specimens of art, but we cannot resist the temptation of saying a few words about them.

The Exhibition consists of Judgment of the Solomon; the Dentists; Christ's Agony in the Garden; Romeo and Juliet; Cupid Cruising; Una from Spenser; and a great number of Studies in Chalk, principally from the Elgin Marbles.

The Judgment of Solomon.—Although it may perhaps be regarded as unfair to compare the different productions of the same artist with each other; and, indeed, although comparisons of all kinds are peculiarly unjust in the fine arts, which, being dictated by sentiment and feeling, are of course repugnant to the ordinary influence of example; still the different subjects chosen by the painter are the objects of legitimate criticism, as the incidental causes which regulate the exertion of his powers. In this point of view, we do feel most strongly the superiority of the subjects of the present picture, compared with the last great work which we had the gratification to witness from the same hand. A drama in which the characters are human, may be treated with greater familiarity, from the known cause of our emotions, than one in which super-human and impulsive natures claim our veneration, but never obtain our sympathy. In the present specimen of Mr. Haydon's pencil, all savours of this happy choice. The grouping is excellent. A moment of intense emotion was judiciously selected, in which the ambitious courting of difficulties in the design might be (as it is) rewarded by the complete removal of every technical obstruction. A fine freedom, and abandon of attitude, characterises the principal group. The moral interest exhibited; the countenance of each individual, modified by their peculiar characters; and these in general well expressed, is that of a monitory and general sympathy for the fate of the victim.

The peculiar tranquillity of Solomon, contrasted with the agitation of those over whom his inscrutable decision is spreading such mixed feelings, appears to us a learned and felicitous antithesis in the picture, although its attainment has produced perhaps a certain degree of stiffness and precoxious gravity in the youthful monarch. To judge of any work of art, however, it is necessary and becoming to appreciate the peculiar view of the artist; and, accounting for the formality of the incident in the way we have now done, we do conceive it to be both respectable on principle, and justifiable on theory.

The two females, one with the living child, the two counsellors, so different in their sympathetic character, and the prostrate dead child, with Solomon, compose the principle group. We may just notice *en passant*, the masterly drawing and beautiful colouring (of the right arm in particular) of the living child, and the utter extinction of life exhibited in the other on the ground. We by no means wish, with our brief and hastily expressed approbation, to be guilty of forestalling the expectations of the public on a passage of this picture, in speaking of which, the shortest and truest qualification is that of exquisite.

The executioner, also, is, in some degree, connected with this group; but in bringing him under our review, Mr. Haydon will find in us no indiscriminate adulators. We do not like the Executioner at all; he is neither terrible, from muscular strength—from ferocious physiognomy—from attitude—nor from attire. Indeed, we feel not only willing, but flatter ourselves that we are perfectly able to sacrifice the miscreant: he neither looks with that dreadful or professional apathy on the deed which he is about to perform, nor screws his nerves up to his terrible and disgusting task. Neither is this figure correct in design or in marking; there is exaggeration where it can conduce to no intensity of effect. A friend of ours, learned in the anatomy of the human body, remarked, that "the hollow at the *scrobiculus cordis* is too deep; that there is not in nature such a separation as is indicated between the heads of the *recti* muscles; and that the cartilages of the ribs do not rise so high in a well-formed subject"—still we must admit, that this fault finds examples in the works of both painter and sculptor,—particularly among those of the Florentine school. Had the artist painted this picture here, or wanted a study for such a character, we could have introduced to him a score of our brawny pressmen, whose black faces, gigantic height and herculean strength, would have peculiarly fitted any one of them as a model for such a subject.

In this grand picture the *chair' oscuro* is successfully treated, and, in many passages, the difficult attainment of colouring is finely exemplified; the tints are clear, and the eye and the imagination are equally stimulated by the vigorous relief, which never descends to any thing artificial or meretricious.

We have no right to generalize in commenting on the different works of an artist, who, being yet in early life, has necessarily produced but few examples, though these are of a very aspiring and dignified cast. Any remarks, however, we could make, would, when placed in

the balance, prove greatly in favor of the artist. But feeling, as we do, much interest in the welfare of the man, and in the victories of the artist, we will cordially and frankly venture (with whom but a great artist would we choose to do so?) some brief and general advice, resulting from the present, compared with his past works, which we have seen. Let him sedulously avoid the introduction of *ditive* character, (which no two spectators will be similarly impressed with,) and constantly adhere to such subjects as the present—indicating a single point of picturesque unity, and, appealing to our more agitating passions, give scope far the freest and most ambitious drawing, grouping, and expression. Let him continue, as in the present case, to dare greatly; let him court difficulties, and he will overcome them; and, as in the instance of every artist of genius, we shall exult in his triumph. Let him beware of coldness of design, resulting from a too extensive culture of the antique sculptures; and, above all, let him shut his ears to the admiration of all people of more strength of moral feeling, coupled with ignorance of the graphic—the peculiar scope of his own art.

Of the other pictures, the *Dentatus* and *Romeo* are our favourites. To the beautiful repose of this latter, we have infinite delight in passing from the hurry, and bustle, and passion of the others. It is an exquisite bijou.

The *Agony*, we rather suspect, is a subject which no painter should attempt. All pictures, indeed, of our Saviour, fail, in our minds, in conveying an adequate impression of his heavenly character; but when his state in the garden is remembered, where he suffered “sorrow like unto no man’s sorrow,” would it be matter of surprise if our artist did not exhibit this sorrow as our imaginations picture it? Beethoven, in his Mount of Olives, even with all the helps of music and poetry, and excited feelings in an audience, has failed to give it with effect. Mr. Haydon, we believe, has done much to display this subject; but we do not wish “to look on its like again.”

The *Dentatus* is a masterly specimen of the effects of that study of the antique, which Mr. Haydon has had the chief merit of introducing into this country. Our readers probably know, that he was one of the first (if not the very first) who espoused the cause of the Belgin Marbles, and made them popular by his writings in spite of much prejudice and opposition among *dilettanti*. In the present instance, the attitude and motion are eminently powerful and natural; and the general effect is harmonious, grand, and imposing.

Cupid Cruising, likes us well. It is altogether a bit for the connoisseur, and painted chiefly with the palette-knife—but quite poetical. The mast of his boat is formed of the horn of the sea-unicorn; the yard-arm is made of his bow, and he is steering with an arrow! The opacity and murky colour of the sea we do not like; and if Mrs. Montague, the proprietor, selected this picture on her own judgment, we laud the lady’s good taste.

The study of such pictures as are here brought together, cannot fail to elevate the public taste. We cannot doubt that the Exhibition will be long a place of crowded resort.

NEW COIN—The new farthings are much so like sovereigns by candle-light, that one evening lately, an attempt was made, in a grocer’s shop in Newcastle, to pass one of them off in payment; and the person had nearly succeeded in obtaining 2lbs. of sugar and the chage.—*Country paper*.—Whether this was a joke, or an intention to defraud, this country paper does not mention. But had the attempt succeeded, it would not have been the first time that the Master of the Mint’s common metal has passed with a bad judge for sterling gold,—witness his own elevation to the Peerage.—The new farthing however is a good coin; and if we suspected that Lord Maryborough knew any thing of the arts, we should say he deserved a compliment on its issue. We suppose the shape of the royal forehead is correct. Except in that of George the Third, we have rarely seen one more remarkable for its receding or pent-house form, which, had the artist been a craniologist, would most likely have not been so faithfully delineated. A lecture on this head, by one of the initiated, would be a choice bit of natural history.

A late humane and popular lawyer, speaking of two contiguous Courts, the Judges of which had very different habits, observed—“It is lamentable to think how slowly justice is administered in the one Court, and how speedily injustice in the other.”

A HINT FOR THE LADIES.—In the course of the published evidence before the Committee of the House of Lords on the *Silk Trade*, the following question and answer occur:—“Do many French goods find their way into this country?” “Yes: but I do not consider that an evil. There is a disposition in many to wear any thing that comes from France; and we have frequently found that a few silks thus introduced, however improperly, have been copied immediately; and where there has been one French garment worn, there have been a thousand sold as French from the very patterns thus copied. It is no uncommon thing for a manufacturer to copy a pattern immediately, and send it down to Brighton, and, by means of fishwives and smugglers, the silks are sold for French at a higher price than they would have given for them in London.”

The Duke of Leinster.

An unjust and most wanton attack was recently made upon this illustrious Nobleman, in a Ministerial Evening Paper of this city. The pretence was the sale of his family mansion in Kildare Street to the Dublin Society; but the real cause was his Grace’s subscription to the fund for indemnifying Sir Robert Wilson. The paper in question, however, ashamed, probably on reflection, of the outrage it had committed upon the first Peer in this country, and one of the purest and most amiable characters, whether we regard his public or private life, in any country, inserted a defence of his Grace, by a Correspondent, from whose letter we transcribe, with pleasure, the following extract:—

Since the period of the Union, no Nobleman, unconnected with it, particular business, has had occasion for a fixed residence in Dublin; and accordingly we find, that the houses of a great majority of the nobility have been disposed of. If a town residence has appeared necessary for any, that has been uniformly preferred where the seat of Legislation and of Government requires their presence: some of our nobility are therefore found to have fixed their residence in London. But the Duke of Leinster, though an hereditary Lord of Parliament, is not one of these; and it is very generally known, that, whenever disengaged from parliament business, he returns with impatience to his paternal and beautiful seat at Carton. If London, young as he is, can afford no attractions sufficient to induce him to reside there, how can any one be so unreasonable as to expect he should take up his abode in Dublin? Carton is near enough to Dublin to leave it in his power to attend, in a couple of hours, any interesting business that may occur there: and in that noble Palace, much more magnificent than Leinster House in Dublin—(and in the improvement of the building alone of which he has recently expended upwards of forty thousand pounds)—he maintains an establishment, to the princely hospitality of which are attracted a perpetual resort and succession of the first of the nobility and gentry of Ireland, and where his own extensive connexions are received as under their paternal roof. There it is, that his Grace the Duke of Leinster holds his distinguished place—and there he affords an example, well worthy the imitation and approbation of his countrymen.

“Instead, therefore, of complaining that the residence in Dublin does not suit his taste, as it does not require his presence—it would better become the citizens to send, in all form and gratitude, a deputation to his Grace to thank him for the comparatively rare example he has afforded, of preferring his own country to all others, however attractive by their polities, by their vicinity, and by the numerous connections of his that they hold: and that he has not been drawn away by the pleasures of foreign and interesting countries; but that he has, like a true patriot, preferred to spend his ample revenues among his beloved countrymen; affording a splendid example of early and distinguished virtues—and illustrating the many advantages derived to the community of a resident landlord, a kind friend, an active magistrate, and a liberal benefactor to the poor.

“Thus his Grace the Duke of Leinster, whilst he maintains the tranquillity of an extensive district, diffuses the benefits of his presence to multitudes, and extends this essentially to the city of Dublin itself.”—*Freeman’s Journal*.

ACADEMIC TIFF.—“Sir Anthony Carlisle (says a daily paper) attended one evening lately to deliver his concluding Lecture upon Anatomy; but was prevented completing it by a most disgraceful scene which took place. A mob of persons assembled early under the archway at Somerset House, and endeavoured to gain admission by forcible means. The confusion which took place in consequence, prevented the access of many of the Members. Sir Anthony declared that he considered the conduct of the visitors an insult to the Royal Academy, as well as to himself. It was particularly unfortunate for the students; it prevented the possibility of his displaying the actions of the muscles upon living figures, as he had intended. The Professor disclaimed all knowledge of the means by which so large a number of tickets were procured by the visitors. The Lecture, in consequence, was materially curtailed.”—But why curtailed? and why should the Students have been deprived of the intended information and display of the muscles? If too many tickets were issued, and coarse behaviour was exhibited at the door,—if even Sir Anthony himself had had his court-dress and cambric ruffles a little disorded by the squeeze,—could he not have smoothed his irritated feelings by a proper notice and rebuke of the guilty, without inflicting a loss on the innocent? However annoying the incident in some respects, the Professor, had he been in a better temper than he appears to have possessed, might have seen something pardonable, if not flattering, in the rough conduct of the assembly; for, after all, it was the desire to hear him lecture that made them violate the necessary decorum.

ST. JAMES’S PARK.—The centre walks round the Park have double rows of lamps, to be lighted with gas, erected, and the whole of the apparatus will be completed by Christmas eve. It has been arranged that the Park will be illuminated on Christmas night for the first time. The effect, it is said, will be most resplendent.

LITERATURE

—365—

American Review.

Poems by William Cullen Bryant. Cambridge, Hilliard and Metcalf. pp. 44. From the North American Review for October, 1821.

Of what school is this writer? The Lake, the Pope, or the Cockney; or some other? Does he imitate Byron or Scott, or Campbell? These are the standing interrogatories in all tribunals having the jurisdiction of poetry, and it behoves us to see that they are administered. He is then of the school of nature, and of Cowper; if we may answer for him; of the school which aims to express fine thoughts, in true and obvious English, without attempting or fearing to write like any one in particular, and without being distinguished for using or avoiding any set of words or phrases. It does not, therefore, bring any system into jeopardy to admire him, and his readers may yield themselves to their spontaneous impressions, without an apprehension of deserting their party.

There is running through the whole of this little collection, a strain of pure and high sentiment, that expands and lifts up the soul and brings it nearer to the source of moral beauty. This is not indefinitely and obscurely shadowed out, but it animates bright images and clear thoughts. There is every where a simple and delicate portraiture of the subtle and ever vanishing beauties of nature, which she seems willing to conceal as her choicest things, and which none but minds the most susceptible can seize, and no other than a writer of great genius, can body forth in words. There is in this poetry something more than mere painting. It does not merely rise to sublime heights of thought, with the forms and allusions that obey none but master spirits. Besides these, there are wrought into the composition a luminous philosophy and deep reflection, that make the subjects as sensible to the understanding, as they are splendid to the imagination. There are no slender lines and unmeaning epithets, or words loosely used to fill out the measure. The whole is of rich materials, skilfully compacted. A strong of ideas crowds every part, and the reader's mind is continually and intensely occupied with 'the thick coming fancies.'

The first poem is in the majestic and flexible stanza of Spenser; the last is in the common heroic blank verse; and in both there is a powerful sway of versification, and a sure and ready style of execution. The others are shorter than these. They have great freedom and propriety of language, and are abundantly rich in sentiment, and marked by the utmost fineness and delicacy of perception. We are not endeavoring to speak favorably of this poetry, we wish only to speak of it justly, and those who read it and apprehend its beauties will say, that we do it no more than justice.

The first poem, entitled *The Ages*, was spoken before the Phi Beta Kappa society of Harvard University at its last anniversary. It is an outline of the different stages of society, with some general prospect of what may be hoped for hereafter.

'Has Nature, in her calm majestic march,
Falter'd with age at last? does the bright sun
Grow dim in heaven? or, in their fair blue arch,
Sparkle the crowd of stars, when day is done,
Less brightly? when the dew lipp'd spring comes on,
Breathes she with airs less soft, or scents the sky
With flowers less fair than when her reign begun?
Does prodigal autumn, to our age, deny
The plenty that once swell'd beneath his sober eye?'

The pictures of man, in a savage and semi-barbarous state, are given with great strength of colouring. The views are broad and full of light, and the tone of the versification deep, solemn, and powerful. The reader is borne away with an irresistible influence, while his mind is entirely filled and satisfied.

'Lo! unveiled
The scene of those stern ages! What is there?
A boundless sea of blood, and the wild air
Moans with the crimson surges that intomb
Cities and banner'd armies; forms that wear
The kingly circlet, rise, amid the gloom,
O'er the dark wave, and straight are swallow'd in its womb.'

The striking features of the national character and state of society in Greece and Rome are then sketched with distinct and bold strokes. A notice of the reformation follows, when 'the web, that for a thousand years had grown o'er prostrate Europe, crumbled, as fire dissolves the flaxen thread.' These are proper topics, for the ideas and principles derived from these sources are the elements of which modern society, or rather modern mind and character, are compounded. Though they are necessarily touched upon but generally, yet there is no vagueness or obscurity; the images are illustrative, and grand, and commensurate with the subject; and it is hardly too much to say, that they are as

close, as intelligible, and as full fraught with meaning, as are those of Spenser himself. The imagery and poetry of this part are not more beautiful and great, than the thoughts are just and philosophical. We will cite one passage more from this part of the poem.

'Those ages have no memory—but they left
A record in the desert—columns strewn
On the waste sands, and statues fall'n and cleft,
Heap'd like a host in battle overthrown;
Vast ruins, where the mountain's ribs of stone
Were hewn into a city; streets that spread
In the dark earth, where never breath has blown
Of heaven's sweet air, nor foot of man dares tread
The long and perilous ways—the cities of the dead;

'And tombs of monarchs to the clouds up pil'd—
They perish'd—but the eternal tombs remain—
And the black precipice, abrupt and wild,—
Pierc'd by long toil and hollow'd to a fane;—
Huge piers androwning forms of gods sustain
The everlasting arches, dark and wide,
Like the night heaven when clouds are black with rain.
But idly skill was task'd, and strength was plied.
All was the work of slaves, to swell a despot's pride.'

In the conclusion the writer turns to his country, which he puts before you as it was when

'—all the broad and boundless mainland, lay
Cool'd by the interminable wood, that frown'd
O'er mound and vale, where never summer ray
Glanc'd, till the strong tornado broke his way,
Through the grey giants of the sylvan wild.'

And as it is now, that

'—towns shoot up, and fertile realms are till'd;
The land is full of harvests and green meads;
Streams numberless, that many a fountain feeds,
Shine, dismember'd, and give to sun and breeze
Their virgin waters; the full region leads,
New colonies forth, that toward the western seas
Spread, like a rapid flame among the autumnal trees.'

There is a more cheerful splendor in this part, which succeeds gratefully to the sterner character of the preceding. But there is kept up to the end the same sweeping power of words, and lofty tone of thought—the same radiance of imagery and intense inspiration. This whole poem occupies but a short space in a book, but it is of materials of large dimensions, and beams with a lustre that will not, we believe, grow dim.

Perhaps some may wish us to mention that the sense it not invariably suspended at the conclusion of the lines, and in two instances, we think there are two, does not conclude with the stanza. There are some instances of trisyllabic feet, such as are found in Spenser and Byron and others, who have written in the same stanza. Whether these are beauties or defects is hardly worth the inquiry in such a production, where they are buried and lost in so much that is great and superlatively beautiful.

The other pieces are short, and all of them, except three, have been published in this journal, and one of these three has appeared in the *Idler*. But the author has altered and added to some of them in this volume. Those who had singled out *Thanatopsis*,¹ and put it in their number of admirable things, will be concerned to learn that the author has made considerable additions and some alterations. But he has not, we think, marred his work, and in its new form it will deserve to be a favorite no less than before. It now concludes thus;

'So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon; but sustain'd and sooth'd
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.'

Of the shorter pieces, that to a Waterfowl is thought by some the best. It has, perhaps, conceptions of greater novelty and strength, but we can imagine nothing finer than the *Inscription for the Entrance into a Wood*, *Green River*, and the *Yellow Violet*. We will quote a part of the first, which many of our readers probably do not recollect.

'Whither, midst falling dew,
While glow the heavens with the last steps of day,
Far, through their rosy depths, dost thou pursue
Thy solitary way?
'Vainly the fowler's eye

Might mark thy distant flight to do thee wrong,
As, darkly painted on the crimson sky,
Thy figure floats along.
‘ Seek’st thou the plashy brink
Of weedy lake, or marge of river wide,
Or where the rocking billows rise and sink
On the chafed ocean side?
‘ All day thy wings have fann’d
At that far height, the cold thin atmosphere;
Yet stoop not, weary, to the welcome land,
Though the dark night is near.
‘ And soon that toil shall end,
Soon shalt thou find summer home, and rest,
And scream among thy fellows; reeds shall bend
Soon o’er thy sheltered nest.’

Lord Byron.

A few days ago we stated that, after a hasty perusal of the last publication of Lord Byron, it appeared to us to contain all his peculiar characteristics, both good and bad; a more deliberate perusal has confirmed us in this opinion. What his excellencies are, we need scarcely mention: an original turn of thought, great vigour of expression, and uncommon facility and sweetness of description wherever woman is the theme. His faults are as obvious: his originality is disgraced by the most revolting paradoxes: his strength frequently degenerates into coarseness, and his notion of female excellence seems always taken from the voluptuousness of the harem, or the exaggeration of stilted tragedy. The great talents of Lord Byron it would be absurd to deny or dispute; but we believe there is no author, living or dead, who, with such talents and such legitimate means of acquiring fame, has had recourse to such devious and affected modes of attracting attention. He seldom ventures to meet his reader on the fair ground of common sense or natural feelings. He almost always thinks it necessary to surprise or startle him at the very outset, as if to prevent too critical an examination of his pretensions. Thus in *Childe Harold* he thought proper to be very melancholy and profligate. In the *Corsair*, *Lara*, &c. he was the admirer of thieves and murderers; in *Don Juan* he was unfeeling and indecent; and now he borders on the blasphemous, though, as he quaintly expresses it, he strives not to break “the bounds of spiritual politeness.” Lord Byron calls himself and is a thorough aristocrat in haughtiness of temper and fastidiousness of taste; but is there not something extremely vulgar in descending to such tricks and quackeries for fixing the notice of the public? We certainly are ready to allow, that in whatever way Lord Byron should choose to appear before the literary world, he has excellencies which must ensure a high reputation; but we must also declare, that hitherto, with scarcely one exception, he has not shown himself in that fair and unaffected guise which alone is worthy of a man of real genius. He does, indeed, appear to have weaned himself from one of his most offensive and vulgar propensities—we mean that of abusing his wife: but he still retains his love of paradox, and his affection for all the weak and guilty parts of human nature.

His present publication consists of three dramas—*Sardanapalus*, *The Foscari*, and *Cain*: of these, *The Foscari* bears scarcely any marks of the writer’s undoubted powers; it is tame and prosaic, never poetical and not above once rising to eloquence. The *Sardanapalus* is full of beautiful passages; and the *Cain* is we think, the best poem which has yet issued from his brain. But in both plays the extravagant love of paradox deforms almost every scene. Thus *Sardanapalus*, as he appears in history, is a mere sensualist: in Lord Byron’s tragedy he is still a sensualist, but he is also, what was never yet compatible with the habit of sensuality, a pattern of reasonableness and benevolence, all tenderness and disinterestedness, and absolutely over-flowing with the milk of human kindness. If Lord Byron had been content with showing that the Assyrian Monarch could not have been that unmixed specimen of debauchery which his successful enemies represented him to be, there would have been both reason and philosophy in the attempt; but when he goes the length of converting a debauchee into an exemplar of all the gentlest and noblest virtues, he at once violates the truth of history and of nature. The *Cain* is equally paradoxical. It was satirically, but not justly, remarked of Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, that Satan, being the most active personage, was its hero. Of Lord Byron’s *Cain* it may be said, with perfect truth, that the first murderer is both the hero and the favourite of the author. Cain for no cause that we can find either in reason or on record, becomes in Lord Byron’s hands a philosophic enquirer, a poetical admirer of nature, a tender-hearted lover of his wife and even of his sheep: in short, has no fault except that he abhors his Maker and his brother. Are such feelings as we here jumbled together compatible? The character, or rather the situation, of Lucifer, is no less inconsistent: his purpose is to fill the mind of Cain with the idea that the Creator is a merely malevolent being, and the author of nothing but evil; and yet he is occupied throughout a whole act in exhibiting to his pupil the beauties and sublimities, and innumerable wonders

of the new creation; the sight of any one of which gave the lie to every calumny against its Supreme Author. Nay, Lord Byron forgets himself and the object of his work so much as to make Cain burst forth into the following fine apostrophe of praise:—

“ Oh, thou beautiful
And unimaginable ether! and
Ye multiplying masses of increased
And still-increasing lights! what are ye? what
Is this blue wilderness of interminable
Air, where ye roll along, as I have seen
The leaves among the limpid streams of Eden?
Is your course measured for ye? Or do ye
Sweep on in your unbounded revelry
Through an aerial universe of endless
Expansion, at which my soul aches to think
Intoxicated with eternity?
Oh God! Oh Gods! or whatsoe’er ye are!
How beautiful ye are! how beautiful
Your works, or accidents, or whatsoe’er
They may be! Let me die, as atoms die,
(If that they die), or know ye in your might
And knowledge! My thoughts are not in this bough
Unworthy what I see, though my dinst is:
Spirit! let me expire, or see them nearer.”

Is it not to be lamented that the man who can feel and express himself in this manner, (and there are many passages of even higher excellence in this drama) should, like one of the vulgar herd of writers, descend to the extravagancies of paradox to excite attention, and delight himself with startling the timid, and putting the delicate to the blush, when he might easily win the applause of all by sound thinking, genuine feeling, and language at once eloquent and poetical. Let me hope that he will yet wean himself from his errors and weaknesses: that he will abandon the seductive but meretricious beauties of Italian poetry for the sublime conceptions of Milton, whom he confesses that he has neglected, and ceased to read: let him do this, and he may then, without the imputation of inordinate vanity, adopt the prophetic anticipation of that great master, and exclaim that he will “indite a work which the world will not willingly let die.”—*Times*, Dec. 27.

CURIOS WILL.

The following curious Will was proved Doctors’ Commons in 1737. The personal property thus passed was very considerable:—

The fifth day of May,
Being airy and gay,
And to hyp. not inclined,
But of vigorous mind,
And my body in health,
I’ll dispose of my wealth,
And all I’m to leave,
On this side the grave,
To some one or other,
And I think to my brother,
Because I foresaw
That may brethren in law,
If I did not take care,
Would come in for their share,
Which I nowise intended
Till their manners are mended,
And of that, God knows, there’s no sign,
I do therefore enjoin,
And do strictly command,
Of which witness my hand,
That nought I have got,
Be brought into hotch-pot,
But I give and devise,
As much as in me lies,
To the son of my mother,
My own dear brother,
To have and to hold,
All my silver and gold,
As the affectionate pledges
Of his brother,

JOHN HEDGES.

A beautiful pelisse worn by the Marchioness of Conyngham is the admiration of all the fashionables at Brighton. It is a present from her son, Lord Francis Conyngham, and is trimmed with the royal ermine of the King’s coronation robes, which became his Lordship’s perquisite of office as Master of the Robes.

The following ludicrous direction was lately sent on a letter from France:—“ M. Des Hayes, *Hei paquener, Piquet de Lail*,” which it turned out meant Hyde Park-corner, Piccadilly.

Monday, May 27, 1822.

-367-

Argyll Rooms.

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 27, 1821.

"Case ye, case ye,—on with your visors!"

The masquerades have commenced for the season, but not under very favourable auspices. Sooth is, the English are not a mumming people. Your English gentleman cannot enter cordially into familiarity with a stranger. A trifle of personal pride, and a pretty strong sense of personal respectability, produce feelings of diffidence towards what he calls "a new face;" and he will look at his opposite neighbour six months before he bows to him, and object to the gentleman that lives at No. 7, because he don't know where he came from, and can't think where he goes to.

The very "good gifts," as well as the whims of our countrymen, conspire to prevent very indiscriminate intimacies. Aware of his own real value, he wishes to be satisfied of that of his associates: ready ("where he sees reason") to remember what is due to others he never, by any accident, forgets what is due to himself. Then, although no man will sooner permit you to laugh with him, he can by no means endure that you should take the liberty to laugh at him. The moment the joke veers round against himself, he thinks all joking d—d silly. He erects himself immediately into surly dignity: abhors your "poison in jest" altogether; and if not absolutely the "Sir Oracle" of *Gratiano*, yet when he speaks, should a dog chose to bark, such dog must bark upon his personal responsibility. Now all this nicely ~~or~~ points of feeling is foreign to the real spirit of masquerader; the entire absence (in a proper sense) of female society deprives the scene of its transmarine attraction; your Englishman, therefore, wrapt in domino and silence, enters a lighted saloon, and walks up and down, half ashamed of his own situation; starves at the supper, for which he pays a guinea, and snaps off the nose of every body who speaks to him.

Under such circumstances, a masquerade in England can never be a very *spirituelle* affair. But still there are those for whom it has its charms. There are the young, to whom novelty is always delightful; and the thoughtless, who in bustle find refuge from care; and the vain, who love to shine in gaudy apparel, and the weak, who must go, because Mr. What-d'ye-call-em goes; and, over and above all these, there are necessarily a number of person interested in an affair which is to cost a thousand pounds; and from forth these classes we have sometimes seen five hundred or a thousand "Christian fools with varnished faces" well disposed to be merry if they knew how. Then there are waxlights, spacious rooms, and music; and the *coup d'œil*, in a large assembly, is imposing enough; and the detail sometime laughable. Strangers, that one can't see, saying—"Don't you know me?" and jugglers, to whom the cup comes more handy than the ball; Greenland bears crying out for ices; and fire-eaters complaining of the heat of the apartments. The association, too, are occasionally happy enough. We have a King in solemn conference with a tailor; and a Gipsy hugging a justice of the peace; a Pope doing homage to the charms of an orange girl; and a devil hob and nobbing with a minister of state. Such sights as these we have beheld, but not at the Argyll-rooms on Thursday evening. The three apartments opened on that night would perhaps accommodate five hundred persons; but not more than two hundred, at the utmost, were present; and the abettors of the entertainment must have experienced considerable loss. We were a little surprised, to see so unpromising a commencement; for, advertise "the war of elbows and the shock of noses," and (in London) you are very likely to produce it. From the dearth of visitors, however, every thing, as will be supposed, because dull and spiritless. Even the characters (composed for the most part of the Swiss, whom one meets over and over again at all those entertainments) were merry only by main force. There was a poet, with proposals for printing *Giovanni in Ireland*:—that met with no encouragement. There was an astrologer, offering to foretell the hour of supper;—that met with great encouragement. Then there was a "beggarly account" of clowns and columbines, here and there sprinkled to make up a show; and a *Dominie Sampson*, wandering from place to place, apostrophised the "prodigious" emptiness of the rooms. The whole thing was

"Weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable!"

About one in the morning, the supper rooms (which were approached by a passage most inconveniently narrow) were thrown open, and seats (*quelle honte!*) were obtained without difficulty. The "baked meats (furnished by Mr. Sharp of Cheapside) were in the usual taste of similar collations; the wines were supplied by Mr. Wright of the Opera Colonnade; and Mr. Lee, of the Adelphi Theatre, who, of suits, "hath no lean wardrobe," had a dressing-room provided on the ground-floor. The company, about half-past two o'clock, returned to the exercise of dancing, and continued their gambols far into the morning. Plank, the police-officer, was in attendance, but his powers were not called into action during our stay.

Army.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

SIR,

December 20, 1821.

I have already taken the liberty to observe to you, that the instances recently alluded to in your Paper, of eight officers of the 85th regiment having been removed the service in May 1801, for failing in the prosecution of Lieutenant-Colonel Ross, was the first which occurred from the period of the command of the army having been assumed by his Royal Highness the Duke of York. To establish this fact I beg leave to quote the *only instances* upon record, of an officer preferring charges against his *superior* between the years 1795 and 1800 inclusive. I allude to the Court Martial held at Colchester on the 22d Jan. 1796, upon Colonel Baldwin Leighton, 46th Regiment, on eight articles of charge produced against him by Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Bell, of the same corps; upon the *whole* of which the prisoner was acquitted most fully, and this acquittal was accompanied by the following remark from the Court:—

The Court cannot close their proceedings without expressing their serious concern that Lieutenant-Colonel Bell, by whatever motives actuated, could have been so far led astray from his duty as to prefer charges against his *superior* officer which appear to have been *groundless* and *excessive*, a conduct in its tendency destructive of discipline and subordination.

(Signed) CHARLES MORGAN.

You will admit that this case held out no warning to the unfortunate officers of the 85th, for Lieut.-Colonel Bell's conduct does not appear to have produced even a remark from his Majesty, although the *same officer*, a few days subsequently (27th Jan. 1798), brought another officer of the same corps (46th), Major Dugald Campbell, to trial, upon one charge of which he also was acquitted; and it is but fair to conclude, that had the punishment which Lieut.-Colonel Bell's conduct called for on this occasion (and which his rank and experience rather aggravated than otherwise), been inflicted, the eight officers of the 85th would not now have their feelings wounded by the error being brought under the public eye at so distant a period.

Amongst the many cases of this nature, which occurred since the trial of Lieut.-Colonel Ross, in 1801, I shall merely refer to the prosecution of Colonel Richard Stewart, 43d, at Sandgate, 25th June, 1804, on two charges preferred by Captain N. Jekyll, of the *same corps*. Colonel Stewart was acquitted, and Captain J. removed the service.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wyatt, 23d regiment, at Guernsey, 15th March, 1811, by paymaster Perkins, on four charges. Lieutenant-Colonel Wyatt was acquitted on all, and the paymaster removed.

I shall only trespass on you with one more case, which may, perhaps, be interesting from the fact of the prosecutor having been on half pay at the period of the Court Martial.

Major W. E. Cochrane, 15th hussars, was brought to trial on three charges at Birmingham, 12th May, 1817, by Captain Buckley, of the same corps, but who had recently been placed on half pay for a reason assigned in the remarks made by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent on the proceedings of the Court Martial. Major Cochrane was *fully* acquitted, and the conduct and motives of the prosecutor censured in the following language:—

The Court, in justice to the service, conceives it cannot too strongly mark its reprobation of the mode adopted by the prosecutor, &c. &c.; and again it states, that "The Court more particularly reprobates the second charge, as renewing the recollection of animosities in parties who have amicably adjusted their differences to the satisfaction of their brother officers, and who had been living in the habits of perfect cordiality for nearly three years before the charge was preferred. The Court is further of opinion upon the *whole*, that these charges have been exhibited from any motive rather than those of the good of the service."

The following are the observations of the Prince Regent on this occasion:—

The Prince Regent has also been pleased to confirm by the expression of his marked displeasure, the terms of reprobation by which the Court conveyed their animadversion upon the conduct of the prosecutor (Capt. Buckley), in presuming to volunteer unfounded accusations against another, and a *superior* officer, for supposed past irregularities, because he had himself become an object of just reprehension upon grounds totally irrelevant to the allegations set forth against the honour and character of Major Cochrane. The Prince Regent has been pleased further to command, that the just animadversion of the Court upon the prosecutor's conduct would have called for a more signal mark of his displeasure, than the expression of his Royal Highness's censure, if Captain Buckley had not already been placed on the half pay for irregularity on a recent occasion and being unwilling to deprive an old soldier who has served 24 years, of total subsistence, &c. &c.

In this case it will be observed that the Prosecutor had both the example in the 85th before him, and the experience of 24 years service. He had also been recently placed on the half-pay for irregularity, and totally failed in his charges against Major Cochrane.

The Officers of the 85th, who proved one charge, and failed in four; who had no example to look to; and several of whom had not even existed the number of years which Capt. Buckley has served; were deprived of their Commissions, and the money expended on them, while Captain Buckley retained his half-pay in the service.

It is not my intention to attempt a defence in behalf of the eight Officers of the 85th: their error proceeded, in every sense of the word, from inexperience; and though the discipline of the Army probably rendered it requisite to afford a severe example at the moment, yet it must be regretted, that while the annals of the service contain so many more recent and more flagrant cases, the Officers of the 85th, whose fate merits commiseration, should be selected by the Public Journalists on the present occasion.

I have no wish that this letter should or should not meet the public eye, but I however trust you will make known the whole, or so much of its contents as will serve to convince your readers that the case of the eight Officers of the 85th Regiment has not been so often quoted lately, because the history of the Army does not afford many instances much more deserving of punishment, and destitute of many of its favourable and palliative features.

Your candour will, I am convinced, obviate any objection to this request. The instances quoted by me are all from official documents, and will be found in "Jame's General Court Martial," published in 1820.

Mexico and Peru.

The revolution now nearly conducted to its close in the great provinces of North and South America, which heretofore constituted as colonies the chief source of Spanish greatness, has naturally awakened the attention of persons engaged in commerce, to the consequences likely to follow this most important change. That a new and extensive influence on mercantile affairs will be produced by the independence of Mexico, Peru, and the other states of South America, formerly under the control of Spain, there can be no reasonable doubt; and it is equally certain that the result will, on the whole, be of a nature essentially beneficial to the world. We shall confine ourselves to what (in the opinion of intelligent and experienced merchants,) may be predicted as the more immediate consequences of this revolution, studiously avoiding to speak of its more remote effects, from the equal desire of avoiding too speculative views, and discussions of a too controversial tendency.

Mexico, possessing an extensive coast, as well in the gulf that bears the name, as on the Pacific Ocean, will, as soon as freedom of trade can be established, become an important link between Europe and Asia. The silver, which hitherto flowed from Mexico to Europe, and from thence to India and China, will now take a direct course across the Pacific, and Mexico will be supplied in return with the productions of India and Chinese industry. Being liberated from the restrictions imposed on her by Spain, the diversity of her soil and climate will encourage the cultivation of the sugar cane, the coffee and cocoa tree, the indigo plant, the vine, the olive, wheat, and every species of grain. The mines will be worked with greater skill and activity; and the consumption of European manufactures will increase in proportion as they become more productive.

Peru being washed by the Pacific only, and more remote from Europe, will still have an active intercourse with Asia, although she cannot be a point of intermediate communication; but she will increase the quantity of her exportable commodities, and institute and extend a beneficial coasting trade. Chili will enjoy the same advantages, and supply Peru, and even the western shores of Mexico, with wheat, flour, wine, tallow, and skins, in return for sugar, cocoa, coffee, and salt. The healthiness of the climate, the abundance and cheapness of provisions, and the situation of the ports of Chili, to windward of the coast of Peru, New Granada, and Mexico, will make that state the principal resort and depot for European commerce; while the hardiness of the Chilians, which fits them for seamen, will ultimately give to that country a large participation in the carrying trade. It is, however, certain, that the first advantage in that respect will be reaped by Great Britain, until the South Americans shall, by the progress of commercial capital, procure a sufficient number of ships and seamen of their own.

The overflow of our population will henceforth find a ready admission in the thinly peopled, but fertile, regions of South America, where lands may be had for nothing, and taxes are insignificant; the length and expense of the voyage are the only serious obstacles. It is to be wished that emigrants may, in preference, fix their attention on the healthy provinces of the river Plate and of Chili, where a climate congenial to European constitutions, together with the friendly disposition of the natives, are such as to obviate many of the evils experienced by new settlers in distant countries.

As an interesting appendage to the above observations, we insert a passage from "Robison's Memoirs of the Mexican Revolution," descriptive of the means of opening a direct passage by canal between the Atlantic and Pacific through the Mexican Isthmus. The preference we find, is here given to the neighborhood of the Lake of Nicargua, over the Gulf of Panama; and it is impossible to contemplate without a mixture of awe and exultation, the practical, nay, it would seem, the approaching accomplishment of a work which would unite the billows of two mighty oceans, and by an easy process of human labour and enterprise, change as it were the physical boundaries of the world:—

"We now came to treat of a section of the American continent, where the magnificent scheme of cutting a navigable canal, between the two oceans, appears unincumbered with any natural obstacles.

"The province of Costa Rica, or, as it is named by some geographers, Nicaragua, has occupied but the very cursory notice of either Spanish or other writers; they have all, however, stated, that a communication could be opened by the Lake of Nicargua, between the two seas, but no accurate description of the country has ever been published; and indeed so completely has the mind of the public been turned towards the Isthmus of Panama, as the favored spot where the canal should be cut, that Costa Rica has been disregarded.

"In looking over the excellent maps of Melish and Dr. Robinson, recently published, we perceive that the river called San Juan discharges its waters into the Atlantic Ocean, in the province of Costa Rica, about latitude of 10 degrees 45 minutes north. This noble river has its sources in the Lake of Nicargua. The bar at its mouth has been generally prescribed as not having more than twelve feet water on it. About sixteen years ago an enterprising Englishman, who casually visited the river, examined the different passages over the bar, and discovered one, which although narrow, would admit a vessel drawing twenty five feet. It is said that some of the traders to that coast from Honduras are likewise acquainted with the passage just mentioned, but it has never been laid down on any map: and if the Spanish Government had been informed of it, they would, conformably to their usual policy, have studiously concealed it. After the bar of the San Juan is crossed, there is excellent and safe anchorage in four and six fathoms of water. It is stated that there are no obstructions to the navigation of the river, but what may be easily removed; and at present large brigs and schooners sail up the river into the lake. This important fact has been communicated to us by several traders. The waters of the lake, throughout its whole extent, as from three to eight fathoms in depth.

"In the lake are some beautiful islands, which, with the country around it borders, from a romantic and most enchanting scenery. At its western extremity is a small river, which communicates with the lake of Leon, distant about eight leagues. From the latter, as well as from Nicargua, there are some small rivers which flow into the Pacific Ocean. The distance from the Lake of Leon to the ocean is about 13 miles; and from Nicargua to the gulf of Papagayo, in the Pacific Ocean, is 21 miles. The ground between the two lakes and the sea is a dead level. The only inequalities seen are some isolated conical hills of volcanic origin. There are two places where a canal could be cut with the greatest facility; the one, from the coast of Nicoya (or, as it is called in some of the maps, Caldera) to the Lake of Leon, a distance of 13 or 15 miles; the other, from the Gulf of Papagayo to the Lake of Nicargua, a distance of about 21 or 25 miles. The coast of Nicoya and the Gulf of Papagayo are free from rocks and shoals, particularly in the gulf, the shore of which is so bold that a frigate may anchor within a few yards of the beach. Some navigators have represented the coasts of Costa Rica, as well on the Pacific as on the Atlantic side, as being subject to severe tempests; and hence these storms have been called Papagayos; but we have conversed with several mariners who have experienced them, and have been assured that they are trifling, when compared with the dreadful hurricanes experienced among the Antilles, in the months of August, September, and October. The Papagayos are merely strong north east gales, which last about the same time, during the winter season, as the northern gales in the Gulf of Mexico. For more than half the year, the seasons are perfectly tranquil, and more especially on the coast of the Pacific Ocean. We have conversed with persons, residents of the city of Leon, who assured us, that for twenty years past they had not experienced any thing deserving the name of a hurricane.

"The climate of Costa Rica has none of the deleterious qualities of the province of Choco and the Isthmus of Panama. The sea breezes from the Pacific as well as Atlantic set in steadily every morning, and diffuse over the whole Isthmus of Costa Rica a perpetual freshness. We think it is not hazarding too much to say, that this part of the American continent is the most salubrious of all the tropical regions. The most finely formed and robust race of Indians of the American continent are found here. The soil is peculiarly fertile, particularly in the vicinity of the river San Juan, and around the borders of the lakes Nicargua and Leon."

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—369—

Chowringhee Theatre.

The Entertainment at Chowringhee drew together a large audience, considering the Season, to witness the Three Act Comedy of "Match Breaking, or the Prince's Present," and the Farce of "A Roland for an Oliver." The Marquis and Marchioness of Hastings, General Hardwicke, Sir Alexander Campbell, and the principal persons and families of distinction at the Presidency honored the Theatre with their presence; and there was a prevalence of good humour, and a predisposition to be pleased with the exertions made to delight, that must have been as encouraging to the Actors as it was agreeable to the Spectators. The debt of gratitude for these exertions is however wholly on the side of the audience; and often as we have expressed it for ourselves, we are still constrained to say, that it is a debt which can scarcely ever be adequately repaid.

Having mislaid our List of the Dramatis Personæ, and not possessing a Copy of either of the Pieces, we regret that our mention of them must be necessarily brief.

The Plot and Story of the first did not appear to us a very ingenious one, though there were some incidents and situations that were highly ludicrous, and some sharp hits, as they would be thought in London and Paris, applicable to the passing events of the day, more particularly those of threatened prosecutions and other more summary punishments for writing in the Newspapers under such Signatures as SNAP-DRAGON, CATAMARAN, &c. which excited a very visible feeling in many parts of the House, the more marked expression of which was restrained probably by a sense of that deference to authority, which it was one chief lesson of the Piece itself to teach, and a departure from which would therefore at such a moment have been doubly reprehensible.

Of the characters, the *Prince*, who is so perfect in all he does, took the lead; and whether as Professor Hoffman, or as the *Prince*, acquitted himself admirably.

Edgar was also very ably sustained, and in the scene in which his indignation is roused, when he meets his Sovereign in that first and last character, of man to man, divested of all distinction, since wrongs and injuries had made them equal, he was, we think, peculiarly great, and gave the whole an air of life and reality that could scarcely be surpassed.

The *Baron* was respectably supported; and the *Count* contributed his full share to the entertainment of the audience; but *Solomon* was the life and soul of the humorous part of the Piece, and to recite the portions in which he shone, would be to recapitulate the whole of the scenes in which he appeared.

The *Baroness* looked, and walked, and dressed, and acted, his part à merveille. No one, not previously acquainted with the fact, could easily be persuaded of the metamorphose; and we question whether there was ever a Gentleman on any stage who could personate Female characters so true to Nature as they are done by the Amateur who undertakes them at Chowringhee.

Emma was correct and engaging, and improves greatly in the ease and manner of her acting, as well as in the tone and accuracy of her enunciation.

Paulina was also well done; and *Theodore* got through the kissing scene, and talked of walking in the garden and amusing himself, with so much zest and earnestness, as to shew him to be no stranger to the fire and vivacity of youth at 15.

The second Piece, "A Roland for an Oliver," was thought by some to be full of wit and interest, and by others to be unusually devoid of both. We incline rather to the latter opinion, and attribute much of the pleasure it yielded to the happy manner in which the characters were sustained, and the general disposition to be pleased that pervaded the House.

Sir Mark Chace, the *Solomon* of the former Piece, was the beau ideal of an old Country Sportsman. The versatility of this Gentleman's talents fits him for every thing he undertakes; but there is nothing in which he so pre-eminently shines as in old characters: in these, he is without a rival, and is likely perhaps never to be surpassed in India.

Selbourne supported his part, though an uninteresting one, as well as the character required. The *Hon'ble Mr. Highflyer* was, as his name would denote, full of bustle and animation, throughout; and *Fixture*, the *Prince* of the former Piece, gave us a very striking specimen of his capacity to represent the extremes of society, the *Prince* and *Peasant*, with an equal fidelity in each.

The Female characters of *Maria*, *Mrs. Selbourne*, and *Mrs. Bland* contributed their share to the Entertainment of the Evening, which, on the whole, appeared to give general satisfaction.

Opium.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal,

SIR,

When the Company first commenced their sales of Opium, the price was extremely limited; hardly, I believe, paying the expence of cultivation, the average rate for several of the first years scarcely being above two Rupees the chest: but at every succeeding sale, the price was enhanced by the avidity of purchasers, progressively, till it arrived at a certain maximum; at which, with very trifling fluctuation, it remained till within the last two or three years, when the price began to rise materially, and the last sale has shewn a result, that could not have been expected by the most sanguine, namely, averaging beyond Four Thousand Rupees the chest, or eight times the former price.

The quantity sold, would, if the sales were confined to the China market, overstock it, and the consequence would of course be a depreciation in price; but the quantum has been progressively increased at almost every sale, and still the extra quantity brought into the market, instead of reducing, or at all events maintaining the same price, has astonishingly increased the value. Had the demand for the China and other Eastern markets proved greater every succeeding year, the increased value of sales would be accounted for;—but as their demand has been for many years very uniform, or with very little variation, it would perplex those not acquainted with the "ways and means" to ascertain the cause of this Mercantile Enigma, of an extension of price by an increased supply the very reverse of which is daily observable in all other commodities imported.

Though engaged in mercantile pursuits myself, I could not ascertain for a long time what new channel had been opened to enable the price to be so greatly enhanced; this mystery has been fully disclosed by the receipt of a periodical publication just received from England, wherein it appears that Opium is in considerable request, both by Amateur Opium-Eaters of wealth and rank in England, and by the people employed in the great manufactures at Manchester, and other quarters. The use of Opium had in one instance arrived to an acme scarcely credible, namely 320 grains or 8000 drops per diem or 5½ drams, a dose sufficient to give eternal sleep to five novices. This alarming quantity was consumed daily by a young Gentleman of rank and birth. The immediate occasion of the use of Opium by the labouring people is ascribed to the low state of wages, which prevented an indulgence in Ale or Spirits; and on Saturday the counters of the Druggists, in the vicinity of manufactories, were strewed with Opiates, of one, two, and three grains, in preparation for the known demand of the evening.

As the pernicious practice is diffusing itself widely in England, we may expect in a little time hence, that the greater part of Opium obtainable here will be shipped for England; much of it, no doubt, has for some time back found its way there. As the use of it is in its infancy, the demand must be trifling, compared to what may be expected in a few years hence, when a population so dense as that of England, (computed by the last census to be nearly twenty one millions) brings it into general use,—and it would not be a matter of much wonder, if the competitors of China and Europe trade were to enhance the Chest to a round Lack.

Your Obedient Servant,

TAPROBANE.

May 3, 1822.

The British Constitution.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

As the Spaniards, when unable to extirpate the unfortunate Indians by human force, set loose their blood-hounds, so the BULL finding his own horns too blunt to cope with me, turns round upon me the heavy artillery of the redoubted Burke. But I have nothing to do with that "arch-charlatan and apostate," who has long reposed "where the wicked cease from troubling," and his sophisms are now equally harmless and forgotten. I acknowledge the wonderful genius that could persuade the world that taxes were drawn from the people to be returned again in fertilising showers, promoting the growth of happiness and prosperity; that could with a flowing period blot France from the map of Europe, and leave in the place where it had been, nothing but a hideous blank, like the pestiferous lake that marks the site of the ancient Sodom and Gomorrah. Happily placed beyond the vortex of this matchless eloquence, I look with compassion on these unhappy persons whose minds are infected by his delusions; with a confident hope that they will all die away with those who have been touched by his magic wand, when Burke, his disciples, and their errors, shall sleep in peace together.

The BULL shrinks from the brunt of the battle, merely introducing this champion upon the field, and then bringing up the rear with "Compare these words of Edmund Burke, with the *sublime sentence* of Byron," SUBLIME I repeat, and infinitely superior to the parallel passage from which it is said to be taken; where I can discover rhapsody but not reasoning, and find a crowd of metaphors so extravagant and preposterous as to appear an imperfect mimicry of madness. He talks about seeking the standard of moderation in the CONSTITUTION of the country, and goes on, "Here it says to an encroaching prerogative—your sceptre has its length, and you cannot add an hair to your head, or a gem to your crown, but an *eternal law* has given it." This assertion is absurd: we are not Medes and Persians, and have no eternal laws, unless it be the laws of nature which were made by the infinite wisdom of the Eternal One. "Here (he proceeds) it says to the overweening peerage, your pride finds baiks that it cannot overflow." Here, I say, is a comparison without the shadow of analogy; for what resemblance has water, which is continually seeking a level, to pride, a noxious vapour exhaled by the Sun of Prosperity from the surface of Society, then louring about in murky clouds, and darkening the face of nature, till it be again precipitated.

"Here (he again makes the Constitution say) to a tumultuous and giddy people: there is a bound to the raging of the sea. Our Constitution is like our island, which uses and restrains its subject sea—in vain the waves roar." There is to my mind no propriety or fitness in this comparison. Our Constitution is not a fixture (like some of our rotten boroughs—wooden machines raised upon posts) nor are all the people of Scotland, England, and Ireland, like so many waves or wild geese, roaring or gabbling around it, or like criminals chained to a rock. The glorious fabric of law and government to which our country has long owed its greatness, was created FOR the people, not the people to be used by or to be slaves to the Constitution. By the public will it was first launched into existence, on that element it ought for ever to rest; and though now stranded on the shoals of corruption, leaky, in want of repairs, in danger of becoming a total wreck, I have no doubt in my mind but a spring-tide of public feeling will float it over the present difficulties, and send it down the stream of time, not only uninjured but still more perfect and complete. I am not eager to predict Revolution and Anarchy: God forbid; but I see no necessity for shutting my eyes to the train of events that are evidently in occurrence; and which will neither be accelerated nor retarded by my speculation or silence.

It is needless to follow him through the whole of this tissue of declamation and sophistry. He applauds our ancestors by whom (he says) the defects of the Constitution—"if it had any—were partly covered by partiality and partly borne by prudence."

They would have better deserved the thanks of their posterity if they had remedied them. He lastly says, "I look with filial reverence to the Constitution of my country, and never will cut it in pieces and put it into the kettle of any Magician in order to boil it with the puddle of their compounds into youth and vigor." This is turning the subject into pure burlesque; which is perhaps the best way of treating it after all. Such would no doubt, be a very undutiful way of treating his aged parent. "On the contrary (says he). I will drive away such pretenders. I will nurse its venerable age, and with lenient arts extend a parent's breath." Sheer burlesque—to compare the Constitution to an old man or woman weighed down with years and then propose to cut it to pieces and boil it in a kettle! No Doctor in Calcutta, I'll take my oath ever prescribed boiling as a remedy for the gout, or for an exhausted constitution. But if Dame Constitution was so frail, being well striken in years in Burke's day's, it is now full time she were superannuated, and her daughter appointed to succeed her.

I pass to an Essay on Reform in the latter part of the Paper where the subject is treated in a similar manner; and I am really sorry for old Mother Constitution now that the Tories begin to turn her into ridicule; as I am afraid she will find few able to keep her in countenance; for since the London BULL was started, their forte lies in taking away female reputation. Mr. Orator Hunt and other Penny Orators talk (we are told) of restoring the Constitution; and it is immediately asked, "What Constitution? every one must have seen a print of the Mill for grinding old women young; these state-menders might as reasonably take poor old Major Cartwright to a mill and expect to see him come out as green in years as he is in judgement, as think that any country could go back to its former state." Poor Constitution! I am afraid that from such harsh treatment the old Lady will die outright, as you tell us the Queen did, of perfect heart-break!

We are told "The British Constitution is not the creature of theory. It is not as garment which we can deliver over to the tailors to cut and slash at pleasure, lengthen it or curtail, embroider it or strip off all the trimmings, and which we can at any moment cast aside for something in a newer fashion. It is the skin of the body politic in which is the form and the beauty and the life,---or rather it is the life itself. Our Constitution has arisen out of our habits and necessities; it has grown with our growth, and gradually modified by the changes through which society is always passing in its progress. Under it we are free as our own thoughts; second to no people in arts, arms and enterprise; during prosperous times exceeding all in prosperity, and in this season of contingent, partial and temporary distress, suffering less than any others, abounding in resources, abounding in charity, in knowledge, in piety and in virtue. The Constitution is our Ark of the Covenant;---woe to the sacrilegious hand that would profane it, ---and woe to be to us if we suffer the profanation!"

Here old Dame Constitution is reduced to nothing but the skin; nay further subtilised to "the life itself." I object to this *in toto*. The life and the skin of an animal body are both the doing of Nature: Constitutions do not spring up naturally, but are made by human skill, in reality as coats and breeches are; and require in like manner to be lengthened, or curtailed, so as to fit the body; repaired when out of order and thrown away when found unfit for the purpose. Woe to us! if like the shoes of the Chinese Ladies, our Constitution had never been altered, and was now incapable of improvement or alteration. The nation must have been stunted in its growth, and would present to all ages an awful spectacle of the folly of thwarting Nature.

The present Constitution of the House of Commons is defended as the best possible, because it is composed of many individuals of worth and integrity, embraces much collective wisdom, represents truly the complicated and various interests of the community and thoroughly understands them. I reply—collective wisdom is no great merit, as there is no scarcity of it in England; I doubt the abundance of political integrity, and I affirm that all the complicated interests of the community have no right to be represented, but only honest and respectable men. Are bribe s,

Monday, May 27. 1822.

—371—

peculators, 'seat-sellers worthy of being represented! Then why should not thieves, pickpockets and highwaymen, not to say beggars and other vagrants have their interests secured in Parliament also by their representatives, men of the same profession who thoroughly understood them? If a Parliament represent any thing but the good and useful part of the nation, better in my opinion to have no Parliament at all.'

This essay concludes with an assertion the Tories are never tired of repeating, so that it has with them become like a Proverb, in which however there is no truth. *The frantic scheme of universal suffrage if adopted "would inevitably and immediately lead to universal anarchy"* What is the use of such a silly assertion as this? Were the United States of America blotted out of the Map of the known world, it might be worth while repeating it: at present it is ridiculous and childish; since we know that in America where universal suffrage has been adopted, there is more order and tranquillity than in any other country on earth; and that in Turkey where there never was suffrage of any kind (under Moosulmans) there is neither peace nor order; in fact it is there we have this "UNIVERSAL ANARCHY."

May 25.

I am Sir, &c.

A FRIEND TO REFORM.

Professions and Practice.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

The numerous excellent letters which appear, almost daily, in your independent Paper, are evidently a great eye-sore to the Gentlemanly EDITOR—or rather to the HIGH PROPRIETORS—of the Calcutta JOHN BULL. It has been repeated by them, over and again, that the several columns filled in the CALCUTTA JOURNAL, by Correspondence, on a variety of interesting subjects, are all manufactured by yourself; but the repetition of this either not having produced the effect, or some HIGH PROPRIETOR, more knowing than the present MANAGER, having hinted that by attributing the entire Correspondence to your own pen, they were playing the BULL in unadvisedly proclaiming your indefatigable industry in composing so many Letters *daily*, for the information and amusement of your Readers,—he has now dropped the old cry, and a new one issues from his brazen lungs. Put your hand on his Paper of to day, and refer to the second column of its second page, surmounted by the words "JOHN BULL,"—which, to use a simile I have met somewhere, looks more like a *Gem* on the front of an *Ethiop*, or a *Sun-beam* in a *Pitch-pot*, considering the opacity below, and you will find at the foot of it, the following paragraphs:—

"Many of our friends complain of the length of some of our Correspondent's letters. They cannot, they say, make up their minds to read a square yard of recondite ratiocination every morning at breakfast, and they beg us to check this Liberty of the Press, at least to put Restrictions on it, so as never to allow any writer to occupy more space than a column." "A News Paper intended to correspond with all dispositions, and afford entertainment for minds of different powers, should necessarily contain short articles on different subjects: Articles that might excite curiosity by their variety, and reward application by their usefulness. We hope our Correspondents will attend to this."

Compare this, not only with the nonsense of his Correspondents A. B. of Luckipore, P. WORDSWORTH, and others, but with the uninteresting selections he makes of his own free will and choice, from other writings, and, with which he does not hesitate frequently to fill whole columns.

The EDITOR of the Calcutta JOHN BULL tells us he does not like to read any thing learned in a News-paper: he is not yet arrived to that state of intellectual beatitude, which is possessed by the happy Emperor of Austria, who never reads at all.

Mudrussa, May 24, 1822.

QULUM.

The Bull, the Fox, and the Grapes.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

Many of your Readers not having had leisure, to apply to the study of Natural History in this country, may be entirely ignorant that there is a certain species of Bull in India that in its manners and habitudes has a remarkable resemblance to the Fox. Having in the course of my studies met with a fact strongly illustrative of this point, I think it worthy of being recorded in the Asiatic Department of the CALCUTTA JOURNAL.

On the 1st day of April, the BULL of which I speak, expressed the sentiments of his heart in the language natural to him, in this wise:—"LITERATURE, well or ill conducted, is the GREAT ENGINE by which all civilized states must ultimately be supported or overthrown."—"We hope that the pages of the JOHN BULL will afford a selection of various and instructive entertainment, and at the same time convey a faithful representation of the literature, science, and history of the times."—"The objects which we consider most deserving consideration in this country are:

"1st.—Original Communications on Literary or Scientific subjects.—2d.—Translations from Oriental Works—the original may also be occasionally given.—3d.—The descriptions of remarkable places, people or manners, *as also* of mineral, animal, or vegetable products.—4.—Critical illustrations of Oriental writings.—5.—Concise accounts of Oriental Books and their authors.—7.—Oriental Biography of persons entitled to a place in the literary or political annals of Asia.—8.—Extracts from, and comments on, the older European Travellers in the East.—9.—Translations from the published works of Continental Orientalists.—10.—Original poetry, of which the object or construction is Asiatic.—11.—Classical or Biblical Illustrations derived from Oriental manners.—12.—Intelligence in Oriental Literature."

By the above, it appears as if profound learning was to be almost the sole object of the BULL: however his "Friends and Contributors" not obeying the call, he has now very sagaciously discovered that—*He seldom likes to see Learned Dissertations in a Newspaper!* For yesterday, he again addresses his friends, as follows:—

"Many of our friends complain of the length of some of our Correspondent's letters. They cannot, they say, make up their minds to read a square yard of recondite ratiocination every morning at breakfast, and they beg us to check this Liberty of the Press, at least to put restrictions on it, so as never to allow any writer to occupy more space than a column. There is certainly a great deal to be said in support of *short letters*, and we really wish some of our Correspondents would take the hint. We like *learned Dissertations* at times well enough, but we *seldom* wish to see them in a News Paper. We doubt whether any one likes them, and we are sure very few read them. The GOLDEN RULE for Newspaper Correspondence, is short letters on agreeable subjects—upon subjects that the generality of readers understand."—John Bull, May 24, 1821.

Is not this the old fable of the Fox and Grapes exemplified? The Bull now pretends to turn up his nose at Learned Dissertations, at which he was lately grasping with all his might; and now the Golden Rule is short Letters on agreeable subjects. By and bye I have no doubt he will discover (for necessity is the mother of invention) that short letters (cre while called "Grasshopper Correspondence") are of no use; and I should not be very much surprised were he to carry his discoveries still farther; that Letters of any kind are a great bose, and that all Newspapers are but Sour Grapes.

I am, &c.

PHILO-AESOP.

* Vide John Bull 1st April 1822.

Government of Oude.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I beg leave to offer a few remarks in refutation of the Statement contained in your Paper of the 29th of April, under the head of "SELECTIONS" respecting Oude. First, you allude to Boats passing unmolested up the Goomtee. Ask the Calcutta Boat Proprietors if this is true or false? Will they trust their Boats equally on the Goomtee as on the Ganges? Was Lady— stopped on the Goomtee, or not? How or by whom was she visited on her voyage up the Goomtee? Was the late Captain Grant, his Wife and Sister, stopped and visited in a way extremely improper, or not? Was not Mr. Cowell likewise stopped and induced to unload his Hackeries, and give part of his property to save the whole, the Zemindar demanding almost every thing he saw? By whom were Mr. Morton's Boats seized? Is this like the protection met with in the Company's territory? You allude to Mr. Metcalfe and Lieutenant Aljoe having been stopped in the former reignt in 1805, inferring that in the last seventeen years, no Travellers have been molested. This is far-fetched indeed; but I speak of the present time. Who attacked Lieutenant Wiggins of the 15th, and cut him up within two miles of Lucknow? By whom was Captain Baddely plundered and almost every person who has stopped near Lucknow? By whom was Miss Walker attacked? By whom the Dawk plundered? By whom the Military Bazar attacked? Ask the Magistrate of Cawnpore who were the people that committed the robberies in that vicinity? and where they reside? and whether there is any facility given to detect culprits who take shelter in the Oude territory? With respect to the Government, I merely ask, is there a failure in the revenue or not? and whence does it arise? Has it not decreased to a great amount? and whence arises this? The extraordinary Military Force making war in the country will scarcely be brought as an argument of good Government. With respect to the ablest and best men being got, and no expense spared, I fully admit the latter, but who are these able men? Let those Gentlemen of the Company's Service who know their characters tell you what they are.

With respect to the Minister, exception is taken at his bearing that title, as he is only the Deputy of the young Prince. Let it be granted. It only makes the case worse: the Heir Apparent by custom is undoubtedly Minister, but does he act as such? and if he does not, it is because this man is put over his head, who, although not strictly entitled to the designation of Minister, nevertheless exercises the power to an extent never before equalled, and every office high and low of every description about the person of the Sovereign is filled by persons of his nomination. What! do they say that Moatumid-ood Dowlah is the Deputy of the Prince! a most extraordinary argument, when the Deputy can put down and trample on the principal. It is a mere quibble, and shews the weakness and fallacy of the assertion.

Within the last three years, what have become of the respectable noblemen of the Court, who used to crowd the breakfast table of their Sovereign? Where are his Brothers who used also to be seen there? By whom is he attended on all public occasions? Not by such characters as these; but by a degenerate few who have become the paid sycophants of the Minister. Let one of them shew the least sign of dissatisfaction, and where will he be to-morrow? Why was Mirza Shah Meer Khan, whose daughter was married against his consent, whose cause was misrepresented to mislead our Government, why was he, a man of the first respectability, induced to go to England to seek redress? If any doubt is thrown upon what I have asserted I am ready to bring forward proofs, and mention names; and I throw down the gauntlet, and challenge your Correspondent to disprove one iota of what I have asserted. His statement is scarcely worth refuting, the contrary being so notoriously known, and I will pledge my life that he is some expectant and seeker

* The article in question was quoted from the BULL of the 27th of April.

of the favor of the Minister. It is said the Minister is a man of abilities. What! with the command of the Treasure of Oude! He must be a fool indeed, if he cannot apply these to obtain advocates. It was said that he was not a Khidmatgar, which I readily admit; for every one knows that he was an Usa Burdar, or carrier of a short Silver Club, for which he received the sum of Six Rupees a month. In dismissing the subject, let me ask to what we are to impute the frequent shocking murders committed even in open day in and about Lucknow?

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

TIMOTHY FAIRPLAY.

P. S.—Your strictures on this Government do good: they tend to check the present corrupt system, and keep the Minister, who has a person in his pay for the express purpose of translating them, in perpetual dread. Your friends, therefore, trust that you will take frequent occasion to publish information on this subject.

Postscript.

On Saturday Evening, after our First Sheet had gone to Press, an Extra Report from Kedgeree announced the Ships seen below, as the DAVID SCOTT, and LA BELLE ALLIANCE, both from England, January 4th; and the JOHN BULL, from Van Dieman's Land, March 11th. The fourth Vessel originally spoken of is not mentioned in the Extra Report. The Lists of the Passengers will be published to-morrow: not being yet received.

Shipping Arrivals.

CALCUTTA.				
Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence Left
May 25	David Scott	British	W. Hunter	England Jan. 4
25	La Belle Alliance	British	W. Rolfe	England Jan. 4
26	John Bull	British	B. Orman	Van Dieman's Land Mar. 11

MADRAS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence Left
April 8	Thomas Coutts	British	A. Chrystie	London Jan. 4
8	William Fairlie	British	K. Smith	London Jan. 4

Shipping Departures.

CALCUTTA.				
Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
May 24	Lady Flora	British	G. Wine	Isle of France

Stations of Vessels in the River.

MAY 24, 1822.

At Diamond Harbour.—ST. THIAGO MAIOR (P.)—ALFRED, proceed ed down.

New Anchorage.—His Majesty's Sloop CURLEW,—Honorable Company's Ship EARL OF BALCARAS,—HARRIET, returned with the loss of her rudder, outward-bound, remains.

Saugor.—MARY ANN, below Saugor, outward-bound, remains,—JANET HUTTON, gone to Sea on the 23d instant.

Passengers.

Passengers per BOMBAY MERCHANT, from Bombay for Madras and Calcutta.—Captain Wallington, Mr. Ogilvie, Mr. Higgs, and G. Prince, Esq.

Passengers per ROCKINGHAM, from Bombay for London.—Mrs. Basset Doveton and 2 Children, Mr. Assistant Surgeon and Mrs. Moyle with 2 Children, Mrs. Stevenson and 3 Children, Lieutenant Elderton, 1st Battalion 2d Regiment of Native Infantry, Ensign, John Cooper, Ensign D. McCardy, 47th Regiment, Lieutenant Dundie, Captain Suxpitch, Captain T. P. Ball, of the Madras Establishment, Mr. Mailland, George Burns, Private of His Majesty's 67th Regiment.

Birth.

At Patna, on the 19th instant, the Lady of R. M. TILGHMAN, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Daughter.

